

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE CONGREGATION GEMILUTH CHASSODIM

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Congregation Gemiluth Chassodim of Alexandria, La., originally known as the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Rapides. Chartered on Oct. 2, 1859, the congregation recently celebrated its 150th anniversary of distinguished service to the Jewish community, as well as to providing faithful dedication to the Alexandria area.

The congregation first held religious services in various private homes with lay leadership. The initial Jewish sanctuary was built in 1870, and the first rabbi, Marx Klein, came in 1873. On Oct. 14, 1873, the young congregation became one of the original charter members of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, presently known as the Union for Reform Judaism, which today represents 900 affiliate congregations in the United States and abroad. The present sanctuary was constructed in 1952.

The congregation has been served by 23 rabbis and 33 board presidents. It grew to a peak of nearly 300 families during the mid-twentieth century.

Many members of the Temple have held various leadership roles in civic and charitable organizations throughout Central Louisiana. In addition, they have made significant contributions in the fields of medicine, law, government, social services, education and the cultural life of the region.

The Temple, the Rabbi and individual members continue to play an integral part in achieving better interfaith understanding, working to strengthen the quality of life for all citizens in the communities of the region.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending the Congregation Gemiluth Chassodim.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY, Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following Earmark request:

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY

Bill Number: Conference Report to H.R. 3183, FY 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations, Miscellaneous

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego

Address of Requesting Entity: 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093

I received \$897,000 for the Coastal Data Information Program/Southern California Beach Processes Study within the Army Corps of Engineers. Through this program, high-resolution wave data and forecasts are disseminated in real time via the internet to the National Weather Service and to tens of thousands of diverse users each day. Sea state and surf warnings are issued based on this information for the protection of life and property. In addition, beach elevations are monitored and analyzed, and this information is provided to coastal communities online where local governments and engineers use it for making educated policy decisions for protecting and enhancing local beaches. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Army Corps of Engineers, which has the federal responsibility for shoreline protection and uses this data for coastal dredging and construction projects. This program is critical to marine safety and operations for the coastal United States and there are no competitive funding sources available.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Thursday, October 1, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 746, on Motion to Instruct Conferees to H.R. 2892; "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 747, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 517; "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 748, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 487; "No" on rollcall vote No. 749, on agreeing to H. Res. 788, which provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3183; "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 750, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 692; "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 751, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 151; "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 752, on Agreeing to the Conference Report to H.R. 3183.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise this October day in strong support of and to draw attention to Breast Cancer Awareness month. According to the National Cancer Institute, in the United States, breast cancer is the most common non-skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related death in women.

It is estimated that approximately \$8.1 billion is spent in the United States each year on treatment of breast cancer. However, while the rate of breast cancer diagnosis has increased, the overall breast cancer mortality rate has dropped steadily—decreasing by 1.8% per year from 1999 to 2005 among women according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This decrease in mortality rates can be attributed to a combination of early detection, expanding screening, and improvements in treatments as well as a willingness to openly discuss breast cancer. Breast Cancer Awareness month is an opportunity to help the more than 211,000 American women who learn they have this disease each year. These newly diagnosed women, survivors, their families, and all those affected will benefit from the research, education, and awareness, which increase early diagnoses and save lives that Breast Cancer Awareness month highlights.

HONORING REVEREND ROBERT E. HENSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, Reverend Robert E. Henson is celebrating 30 years as pastor of the South Flint Tabernacle on October 10th at a dinner to be held at the church. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Reverend Henson on this momentous occasion.

Prior to his ministry at South Flint Tabernacle, Reverend Henson served pastorates in Texas and Indiana. He has over 40 years serving as a minister. For seven years he was the Youth President of the Indiana District of the United Pentecostal Church International. He also worked as the Editor of the Indiana District United Pentecostal Church International periodical the "Indiana Apostolic Trumpet." After he moved to Michigan, Reverend Henson spent 16 years as presbyter and member of the Michigan District Board of the United Pentecostal Church International. He was the Home Missions director for one year.

Reverend Henson has written several articles and several books including "Effective Altar Ministry," "The Silhouette of Majesty," "Prayer Force One," "Marvelous Mercy," "Living a Balanced Life . . . In an Unbalanced World," "World Changers," and "Just Braggin' on Jesus." He co-authored "Victorious Living for New Christians."

Together with his wife, Shirley, Reverend Henson has two daughters, Melissa and her husband Jonathan Hudson, and Jerusha and her husband Jason McGhee, and four granddaughters: Jelissa, Macy, Jade, and Madelyn.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me today and applaud the work of Reverend Robert E. Henson and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

South Flint Tabernacle as they celebrate 30 years of worship, service, and spirituality under his guidance. I pray that he will continue to guide the congregation and serve the community for many, many years to come.

HONORING PAULETTE WALZ,
LEESBURG, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paulette Walz of Lake County, Florida. This past week, she was awarded the Social Security Administration's highest honorary award; the Commissioner's Citation. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient.

Born in a small town in middle Tennessee, she first began her work with Social Security recipients while working as a Claims Development clerk in the Cookeville, TN Social Security Office. From there she was promoted to the Service Representative position in Leesburg, FL and thus made her move to the 5th district, where she continues to work as the Public Affairs Specialist for Lake and Sumter Counties.

For the past 24 years, Paulette has done an exceptional job of both helping Social Security recipients with their every concern and in keeping SSA issues front and center. Her efforts span much farther than her office however; she utilizes print, radio and TV to educate recipients about the Social Security options available to them. Paulette hosts two weekly radio shows in The Villages, as well as records weekly Public Service Announcements. She also records a 30 minute television program three times a month where she and her guests discuss programs the Agency administers. Additionally, she utilizes her weekly column in The Villages Daily Sun to respond to congressional inquiries regarding Social Security.

When she is not covering the issue in the media, Paulette teaches a monthly class on SSA benefits at The Villages Life Long Learning College. Additionally, she conducts pre-release seminars at area Correctional Institutions, including the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex, the largest federal prison in the United States. She was also instrumental in implementing the North Florida Area's eServices Outreach Pilot Program; this initiative offers individuals who are close to retirement assistance in making an informed decision as to when to retire.

I have only scratched the service on all she has accomplished. From working first hand with Paulette on many Social Security issues, I can tell you that her expertise and dedication are invaluable.

I congratulate her on this prestigious honor and wish her only the very best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JESUS GONZALES,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARDS, SACRED HEART SCHOOLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jesus Gonzales, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, The Heart of the Matter, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

This year, Jesus Gonzales was chosen, along with two other distinguished recipients, to be recognized with the Award for his tireless work and commitment to the Sacred Heart School as the Physical Plant Manager. His award was presented by Mr. Dan Greenleaf, who gave this speech at the Awards Ceremony in tribute to Jesus:

Jesus Gonzales is a lover. What I mean here is his heart is full of love.

He shares that love everyday with the students, faculty, staff, administration and parents at Sacred Heart Schools.

Which is not always easy. But he gives this love. And he gets love in return.

He shares this love everyday of his life with his brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews and friends.

He has a lot of love to give and he gets lots in return. Which is no surprise to me because I knew his father Gabriel.

Gabriel didn't speak English and I don't speak Spanish but we still knew each other well.

Gabriel raised 8 wonderful kids into happy productive adults while he was working here at Sacred Heart.

The family is: Theresa, Gabriel Jr., Vidal, Valentine, Jesus, Urlinda, Maria and Tony.

This is a very close family who hold on tightly to their heritage while raising their own families here in the melting pot of the Bay Area.

They see each other every day. They share meals, they vacation together, they hang out on the porch doing nothing together, they have strong relationships with each others children. They give love to each other and they get love from each other.

I tell you this because the family is so much of who Jesus is.

Jesus first stepped on the Sacred Heart campus in 1981, when he was 5 years old. One of Jesus' oldest memories on the campus was Sr. Mesa's chickens and rabbits down by the shop.

Sr. Mesa would sell the rabbits for \$1 each, dead or alive. They tasted like chicken. At that time, there was: no McGanney Gym, no Montessori, no Spieker Pavilion, no Apartments, no football field/field house.

Sr. Lawrence had warm cookies in the Main Building and Jesus had a great place to grow up.

His 14th summer, 1989, was his first summer working for Sacred Heart. He painted speed bumps and dug irrigation trenches.

Always a big smile on his face and usually a wise crack to go with it to try and deflect me from seeing how sore he was from swinging the pick.

In high school he worked in the Gator Pit where he would flash those green eyes and talk with all of the high school girls because, well, heck, he was in high school too.

In 1997 he was hired full time in the Maintenance Department.

Two years later he was put in charge of St. Joseph's and the Montessori School and his job changed from actually physically hands on working, to management and dealing with the administration, faculty, coaches, parents and neighbors. He was in his element, this was his strength. He was happier than a pig wallowing in slop. He did well.

In 2003 he was promoted to "Physical Plant Manager" in charge of all of the buildings on the campus. There are many decisions made by the Board and the Operations Department and they get handed down to Jesus and his crew.

They might have a list of 25 things to do. They do 10 of them and check the list again and it's up to 30 things to do. It never ends.

Jesus gets to deal with everyone on campus by e-mail, phone and face-to-face. That starts with his crew of about 20 maintenance and housekeeping personnel. They are the front lines. They are the men and women in the trenches. They are the people we all depend on but might not realize it.

Jesus is very fair with his crew. He is consistent in dealing with 20 personalities. He evaluates, makes changes and implements these changes fairly across the board. He can be stern and honest when he needs to be, but he talks to them the same way he would expect someone to talk to him.

Most of his conversations are peppered with humor. He listens, I mean really listens and makes informed decisions. He is not above his crew.

Then he deals with everyone else: administrators, teachers, parents, vendors, police department, fire department, city hall, contractors.

There is nobody that he doesn't approach with a smile and an open mind. He is patient. He is organized, and he will give you all his time to get you what you need.

In the big picture he knows why he's here. I've heard him say it before, "We are here for the kids." It is that easy. You give love, you get love, "We are here for the kids."

He is who his father and family and maybe even a little bit of Sacred Heart raised him to be.

A child of the Sacred Heart.

But still after all of this, there is still one person who remains the center of his life. Someone who goes for camping, fishing, bowling and makes him laugh. Someone who helps him get ready for work in the morning.

That most special someone in his life is his son Vidal who is now 8 years old and who gets to grow up in the loving glow of his father and the whole Gonzales family.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our congratulations to Jesus Gonzales on the very special occasion of being chosen for the St. Madeleine Sophie Award and for all he does daily to strengthen our community and our country.

HONORING EGGLESTON SERVICES
AND THE SARAH BONWELL
HUDGINS CENTER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to rise today to honor Eggleston Services for the meaningful opportunities they provide for individuals with disabilities. Eggleston Services is a company in southeastern Virginia that has close to 600 employees, and upwards of three fourths of those employees have a disability. Many of these workers are able to work through a federal program called Ability One. Ability One encourages federal entities to work directly with agencies like Eggleston to provide valuable work at a fair price, all the while utilizing the skills of persons with disabilities.

Eggleston Services is dedicated to providing a broad array of programs and services for individuals with disabilities. Since 1955 their goal has been to assist people in obtaining meaningful work opportunities, and to help them participate fully in their communities. Eggleston Services helps individuals with disabilities gain freedom from dependence on government support by providing them on-the-job training and stable work opportunities.

Just recently, I had the honor to visit the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Center in Hampton, Virginia. The center is owned by the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Foundation and managed by Eggleston Services, Inc. The center provides dynamic programs for individuals with mental and/or physical disabilities. Through its partnership with Eggleston Services, the Foundation helps persons with disabilities by providing a place to work, a place to live in a safe caring environment, and a place to learn to live independently.

The profound work and programs that are available at the center help many and are invaluable. At the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Center, Eggleston Services operates a Life Enhancement Program, which provides specialized services, activities, and residential care. Eggleston Services also provides programs at the center, including Eggleston Document Destruction, a full-service secure document destruction and shredding business, a business fulfillment center, and a ceramics manufacturing facility.

These remarkable programs serve as a way for people with disabilities to find independence and a sense of one's own. None of this would be possible without the Ability One Program and the dedication of Eggleston Services. Businesses can look to Eggleston Services and the Ability One program and use their successful programs as a model for their own business practices. Persons with disabilities can be key contributors in the workplace and I commend Eggleston Services in conjunction with the Ability One program and the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Foundation for their work in providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

REPEAL THE DON'T ASK, DON'T
TELL POLICY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman MURPHY for providing me with the opportunity to speak on this important issue. As a cosponsor of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, I fully support the repeal of the unjust, unnecessary, and unsound "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. I believe we must reject current practices that have institutionalized discrimination against many valuable members of our armed services for too long. Instead, we must establish a new policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is simply unjust. It flies in the face of the fundamental American value of equality for all. No individual, including those in our armed forces, should be discriminated against based on his or her sexual orientation. Members of our armed services have fought honorably to protect our safety and freedom, so the least we can do in return is to fight to protect their freedom and equality as well. My hometown of Las Vegas includes Nellis Air Force Base, one of the premier Air Force facilities in the U.S., and I believe the courageous men and women who serve there deserve to be treated with equality and respect, regardless of their sexual orientation.

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is also completely unnecessary. The vast majority of Americans believe our troops deserve the opportunity to serve with honesty and honor. And most importantly, a majority of servicemembers have said they would have no reservations about serving alongside gay and lesbian troops, proving the problems this policy supposedly prevents are not, in fact, problems at all.

Not only is this practice unjust and unnecessary, it is also unsound. Our military should not fire valuable servicemembers simply for being gay, particularly during a time of war when we need every American who is willing and able to serve. Furthermore, repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" would increase, not undercut, unit cohesion by fostering openness and trust among troops.

Ultimately, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" does nothing to contribute to our national security. In reality, it only undermines the strength and integrity of our military system. I believe this practice should be repealed immediately, not only for the benefit of our armed forces, but for the safety of Nevada and our Nation as a whole.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Many of us have concerns for family and friends impacted by breast cancer. This month we must take those concerns and turn the emotion into action.

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in women in California and the United States as a whole. It is the second most common cause of cancer death. The California Cancer Registry estimates that each year, more than 25,000 California women develop breast cancer and over 4,000 die as a result. California represents a large portion of the 192,370 new cases of breast cancer that have been diagnosed in 2009 alone.

This disease is not gender specific; it will develop in approximately almost 2,000 men this year as well. Early detection and treatment for both sexes has resulted in 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

We must continue to encourage all women and men to undergo mammography screening, as it is the most effective test to determine the presence of breast cancer. To do so, I have joined with my colleagues to cosponsor the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009. This bill will enhance efforts to increase public awareness regarding the threats posed by breast cancer to young women and men, as well as to enhance campaigns that will further educate the community on the risk factors of breast cancer and the importance of early detection.

I am proud to stand today with my colleagues to recognize the importance of continuing efforts to enhance awareness and preventative actions.

TRIBUTE TO JAN TITTLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jan Tittle, the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Mrs. Tittle will address the Veterans of Foreign Wars Fall Conference on October 10th in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The 600,000 members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have spent the last 96 years honoring those who have sacrificed and served our Nation to preserve our freedoms. They volunteer their time maintaining memorials to the persons making the ultimate sacrifice for our country and to teach our youth about our veterans. They provide financial assistance to preserve the Statue of Liberty, have volunteered over 2 million hours in Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and other hospitals. They provide awards and scholarships to students based upon their expressions of patriotism through art, speech and volunteerism.

Jan Tittle was elected the 2009-2010 National President this past August at the 96th National Convention. She is a Life Member of the TSgt. Walter C. Fulda Auxiliary 3433 in Ladson, South Carolina. She is eligible through her father, Arlen Owens, a World War II Purple Heart recipient. As the National President she plans to focus on the Auxiliary's core programs for veterans and their families.

She also plans to lead the Auxiliary in topping \$3 million to the Cancer Aid and Research Fund.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise and applaud Jan Tittle as she brings together the Ladies Auxiliary under the theme, "It's Time for America's Military Heroes." I congratulate her and the members of the Auxiliary for their commitment to safeguarding the memory of our veterans and their sacrifice for our Nation.

GOVERNORS OF ALASKA, ALABAMA, AND ARIZONA EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters from the governors of Alaska, Alabama and Arizona:

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009.

Hon. MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee, Hart
Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BAUCUS AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: States cannot afford to carry the huge costs of health care reform. States (and their businesses and residents) are struggling to recover financially. The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) reports states had a \$113 billion dollar budget shortfall in 2009 and the situation is getting worse. NCSL estimates state budget shortfalls will increase to \$142 billion in 2010. I am also concerned with the proposed new federal mandates that would undercut state authority over the Medicaid program.

On fiscal impact, H.R. 3200 expands Medicaid coverage to all citizens under 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) while the Senate HELP committee legislation assumes an expansion to 150 percent of the FPL. The Congressional Budget Office estimates these proposed expansions would require spending hundreds of billions of dollars in new public funds. While the proposals would initially place responsibility on the federal government to pay for expanding Medicaid coverage, a shift would later occur to state treasuries and the impact would be significant. For Alaska, the National Governors Association estimates it would cost \$140 million in state general funds to expand Medicaid for all Alaskans up to 133 percent of FPL in 2015. (Assuming there is full federal funding the first two years.) This

amount would increase to \$168 million by 2019, with new state expenditures amounting to billions over time.

This fiscal hit to states would come on top of the Medicaid funding cliff created by Congress in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. (ARRA). ARRA established a temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate to help states deal with Medicaid costs. This higher FMAP rate is set to expire on December 31, 2010. If the higher FMAP rate is not extended, states will face an immediate and significant increase in costs to operate Medicaid programs. In Alaska, approximately \$120 million more in state general funds will be needed to operate the Medicaid program for just one year.

Further, proposals in Congress would give the federal government a stronger role in administering Medicaid and undercut state authority. Coverage would have to be expanded to childless adults who qualify and would replace the current state option to cover parents of low-income children with a federal mandate to provide coverage to qualifying adults. Maintenance of effort requirements would prevent states from adjusting eligibility to meet ever-changing fiscal conditions. Lower limits of practitioner reimbursement and coverage limits would be imposed. New services and the coverage of additional provider groups would be mandated and state flexibility in the eligibility process would be constrained. All these mandates limit state control and flexibility to control the Medicaid program.

While I am sympathetic to the dilemma of health care reform and I applaud your efforts to find a solution, I cannot support legislation from Congress that imposes costly unfunded federal mandates on Alaska and other states. Instead, the federal government should be looking for ways to give the states increased flexibility with federal funding to meet the unique needs of each state's population. This tact would lead to innovation and cost-containment as compared to the current rout pursued in existing health care legislation.

Sincerely,

SEAN PARNELL,
Governor, Alaska.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

Hon. RICHARD SHELBY,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SHELBY: Democrats and Republicans alike agree that our health care system is in need of reform; however, it appears the proposal you will likely be called to vote on has serious flaws that will have a dire budgetary impact on Alabama. As governor of our state, I am writing to express a specific concern I have about this proposal.

The Senate and House of Representatives are considering a bill that includes a major expansion of Medicaid and an increase in costs to the states. Our Medicaid Department has reviewed the cost of expanding Medicaid to 150% Federal Poverty Level and determined that it would cost state and federal taxpayers an additional \$1.2 billion per year to cover this mandate alone. Unlike the federal government, our state actually has to balance its budget. Given the effects of the current economic condition on our budgets, any additional costs will overwhelm our resources. Expecting states in the current economic climate to provide additional funding for federal mandates is not reasonable or even practical.

Instead of raising taxes, imposing mandates and charging penalties on small businesses, Congress and the White House may want to consider an approach we have begun to take in Alabama. Small businesses, those

with 24 or fewer employees, can now deduct 150% of the money they spend on health insurance premiums from their state taxes, and their employees earning up to \$50,000/year can do the same.

Rather than increasing the size and cost of government by putting more people on Medicaid, and thereby making more citizens dependent on government as Washington appears ready to do, Alabama is trying to reduce the burden of health care costs for the overwhelming majority of its employers and their employees. I believe our state can be looked to as a model for other states.

Our Medicaid program is a national innovator in the area of medical homes and health information technology. A higher percentage of Alabamians have health insurance than the nation as a whole, and Alabama has a lower percentage of uninsured children than the nation as a whole. In addition to achieving higher rates of coverage, Alabama has some of the nation's lowest health care costs. That is one reason why Alabama has been so successful in attracting national and international companies and the thousands of jobs they have created in our state.

Not only is health care less expensive in Alabama than just about anywhere else in the country, we are also an open market for insurers. More than 300 companies are licensed to sell health care insurance in our state. We encourage competition and welcome insurers to help in the effort to drive down costs.

We, as a nation, must address the problems of our existing health care system, but simply unloading them on the states will not work. I thank you for your interest in this very important matter and look forward to working with you to find common sense ways to reform our health care system.

Sincerely,

BOB RILEY,
Governor, Alabama.

JULY 16, 2009.

Senator JOHN MCCAIN,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Bldg.,
Washington DC.
Senator JON KYL,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Bldg.,
Washington DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCAIN AND SENATOR KYL: Thank you for the opportunity to provide information about Arizona's Medicaid program, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

As you know, Arizona is facing one of the worst financial deficits in the nation and projections show that the State is expected to make a slow recovery. In the meantime, unemployment has continued to increase and counter-cyclical programs like AHCCCS have continued to experience record-breaking enrollment. In the last four months alone, AHCCCS has grown by more than 100,000 new enrollees, and July 2009 enrollment is almost 17 percent above the same month in 2008. Total enrollment, including our Title XXI KidsCare program, in July reached 1,275,109 members, which is almost 19 percent of the state's total population.

I am proud that AHCCCS program has served as a model for other state Medicaid programs across the country in terms of cost containment. This is due, in large part, to the fact that AHCCCS is a capitated managed care model and 65 percent of its long-term care members receive home and community based services rather than institutional care. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, AHCCCS has the lowest per member per year (PMPY) cost among Medicaid programs in the country. The average PMPY costs are: (1) \$5,645.52 for acute care; (2) \$45,960.72 for long-term care, which is a blended average of our elderly and physically

disabled and developmentally disabled programs. The weighted average PMPY cost across all Title XIX groups is \$7,182.60.

I am concerned that the Medicaid expansion proposals being discussed at the federal level do not consider the fiscal difficulties states are facing and are likely to continue to face over the next few years. At the same time as Congress is considering prohibiting states from changing their Medicaid eligibility standards, there have been discussions about establishing a federal floor for Medicaid provider rates, which even further limits state flexibility in setting funding levels. State flexibility has been key to Arizona's success in developing and efficiently managing a Medicaid program that provides high quality care at a low cost.

Even with our strong cost containment measures, I remain concerned about Arizona's ability to sustain the existing AHCCCS model, let alone a mandatory expansion to 150 percent, regardless of whether the federal government provides full financing of the expansion for the first five years. Medicaid is already an increasing share of state budgets—Arizona's General Fund spending on AHCCCS has increased by 230% over the past ten years, and has risen from 8 percent of General Fund spending in FY 1999 to an estimated 16 percent in FY 2009.

Maintaining this level of spending increases will be difficult, especially given that Medicaid enrollment and costs continue to rise. Moreover, Arizona's revenues are not expected to turn around for several years and, even when they do rebound, we would require significant revenue growth in order to sustain rising expenditures for the existing Medicaid program.

Attached, please find data responsive to your requests. There is a summary sheet that provides an overview of the information requested, along with several other sheets that provide additional detail. As you know, there are many unanswered questions regarding the proposals. This analysis includes the assumptions that were used to develop the figures, which will obviously change as the proposals are refined.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or should require additional information. I share your concern regarding Arizona's ability to expand its Medicaid program and what the long-term fiscal implications will be for Arizona, and I hope you find this information useful as you consider the various proposals that are before you.

Sincerely,

JANICE K. BREWER,
Governor, Arizona.

COMMENDING JOYCE BOLAND FOR RECEIVING THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S CITATION FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend my constituent, Joyce Boland, for receiving the Regional Commissioner's Citation from the Social Security Administration. The Regional Commissioner's Citation is the second highest award that Social Security gives to employees who demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism as established by the agency.

Joyce Boland has worked for the Social Security Administration for 39 years and has

dedicated her life to public service. She is often asked to train and mentor employees in other branches, which she does without hesitation. In fact, this is the third time she has received the Regional Commissioner's Citation, an award that is rarely awarded even once in a career, let alone three times.

I applaud the good service that Joyce Boland has not only provided the Social Security Administration, but to the citizens of York County and Pennsylvania as a whole. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Joyce Boland for her good work and service to her country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "WATER TRANSFER FACILITATION ACT OF 2009"

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, today with Congressman CARDOZA I introduced the "Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009." The measure should reduce unnecessary delays in water transfers at a time when Central Valley farmers have been hard hit by a three-year drought. It would allow new water transfers of roughly 250,000 to 300,000 acre-feet of water per year. The bill would grant new authority to the Bureau of Reclamation to approve voluntary water transfers between sellers and buyers in the San Joaquin Valley. The measure also would streamline environmental reviews for Central Valley water transfers by ensuring that they occur on a programmatic basis, instead of the current project-by-project basis.

Transferring water between and within counties for water districts is a critical tool during periods of drought. While the best solution would be to have the federal and state pumps fully operational, because we have been unable to modify the Endangered Species Act, this change in the law provides us some relief. This legislation makes permanent the ability to transfer water to our Valley's farms when it is most needed, therefore, allowing our farmers a lifeline to continue to grow crops and help our local economy. More will need to be done to protect the Valley's water, and I will continue that fight.

The bill is supported by a great number of water users across the Central Valley, including the following: Friant Water Users Authority, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority, Delta-Mendota Canal Authority, Westlands Water District, Metropolitan Water District, Glenn Colusa Irrigation District, Northern California Water Association, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Association of California Water Agencies, Placer County Water Agency, Conaway Preservation Group, and Reclamation District 2035.

I have submitted several of these support letters, and I understand that Mr. CARDOZA will submit additional letters as well.

FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY,

Lindsay, CA, October 1, 2009.

Subject: Support for transfer legislation for the Central Valley Project.

Hon. Congressman JIM COSTA,
Longworth House Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Friant Water Users Authority (Authority), we thank you for introducing transfer legislation for the Central Valley Project (CVP) and we support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility for management of CVP water supplies.

The diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of 3 years of below average precipitation amplified by various regulatory restrictions, including the ESA and the most recent delta smelt and salmon Biological Opinions, have, as you know, created a desperate situation in the San Joaquin Valley.

While long-term solutions are being sought, numerous short term efforts are needed to help bridge the water supply gap and greater flexibility, as provided in your legislation, to move water supplies across the San Joaquin Valley would be a useful tool. In addition, the legislation would help Friant districts affected by the SJR Settlement improve management of surface and groundwater supplies.

The Authority consists of nineteen member water, irrigation and public utility districts. The Friant Service area includes approximately one million acres and 15,000 mostly small family farms on the east side of the southern San Joaquin Valley (Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern County). Friant Division water supplies are also relied upon by several cities and towns, including the City of Fresno, as a major portion of their municipal and industrial water supplies.

We look forward to engaging in this effort and working closely with you and your staff in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues.

Sincerely,

RONALD D. JACOBSMA,
Consulting General Manager.

SAN LUIS & DELTA MENDOTA

WATER AUTHORITY,

Los Banos, CA, October 5, 2009.

Re Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. DENNIS CARDOZA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN, SENATOR BOXER, MR. CARDOZA, AND MR. COSTA: I am writing on behalf of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority to express our enthusiastic support for your bill, the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009, authorizing certain transfers of water in the Central Valley Project and other purposes. Water transfers are essential to sound water management and often are time sensitive. Your legislation will bring important reform to existing transfer authorization thus increasing the efficacy of this essential water management tool.

As you are keenly aware, coping with California's water crisis and, in particular, the chronic water supply shortages impacting the Central Valley Project demands utilization of various best management practices

including water transfers. Moreover, the need to transfer water is often urgent and in response to climactic conditions that are frequently sporadic and ephemeral. Regrettably, bureaucratic process can unnecessarily thwart successful execution of a transfer and the best management of this all too precious resource. The clarity your legislation brings to existing authorizations will only improve the capability of water managers throughout the State to effectively respond to the ongoing crisis and put our scant water resources to use even more efficiently.

The Westside of the great San Joaquin Valley is invariably the most transfer dependent region of the State. Your efforts to address this important matter as well as your vast knowledge of and longstanding commitment to water resource issues vital to the State are most deeply appreciated. If there is anything I can do to be of further service to you in this cause, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

DANIEL G. NELSON,
Executive Director.

GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
Willows, CA, October 2, 2009.

Re Support for water transfer legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility in the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) and other water supplies to help meet unmet needs critical to the future of the State of California.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of 3 years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP.

GCID is the largest and one of the oldest diverters of water from the Sacramento River, dating back to 1880. As a senior water right holder and CVP Sacramento River Settlement Contractor, we believe we can and will actively participate in this water transfer program. The language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to implement the necessary long-term environmental processes addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake will be imperative to its usefulness and success.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

THADDEUS L. BETTNER,
General Manager.

BANTA-CARBONA IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
Tracy, CA, October 2, 2009.
Re Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.
Hon. DENNIS CARDOZA,
Longworth Building,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JIM COSTA,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR HONORABLE PUBLIC SERVANTS: We encourage you to pass this proposed bill as it can only help Californians best use the waters within the state. It is a waste of storage and conveyance systems to limit the uses of these facilities to strictly one brand of water, ie. CVP water. When facilities can be used to move various sources of water to diverse destinations and beneficial uses then the facilities are doing the most good for the American public. These public facilities will then better serve municipal, industrial and agricultural water needs while the environment is being served during times of drought. This bill will clarify a portion of law that federal regulatory agencies are interpreting in such a way as to prevent conveyance and storage of otherwise legal water transfers within the State of California in Federal facilities. Please pursue passage of this legislative correction.

Sincerely,

DAVID WEISENBERGER,
General Manager.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following Earmark request:

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY

Bill Number: Conference Report to H.R. 3183, FY 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations

Account: EERE

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: UC San Diego

Address of Requesting Entity: 9500 Gilman Drive, San Diego CA 92093

Description of Request: I received \$750,000 for the San Diego Center for Algae Biotechnology (SD-CAB). SD-CAB is a consortium of renowned research institutions—including UC San Diego, The Scripps Research Institute, the Salk Institute, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego State University and other regional entities—that are collaborating with industry partners in a broad-scale research effort to develop advanced transportation fuels from algae. Scientists from these institutions established SD-CAB in an effort to make sustainable algae-based fuel production and carbon dioxide abatement a reality within the next 5 to 10 years. The primary goal of the center is to create a national facility capable of developing and implementing innovative research solutions for the commercialization of fuel production from algae. Algae biofuels have the potential to provide a secure and renewable source of transportation fuel that is at least carbon neutral, and does not compete for land or fresh water resources required to grow food supply crops.

To further establish the SD-CAB as a national research resource for the sustainable

development of algae-based biofuels, I made a project request intended to help develop the facilities necessary to the production and culturing of a variety of algae strains. These facilities would be both on campus at UCSD and at an off-site location where existing infrastructure can be readily upgraded, refurbished and leveraged for the SD-CAB research enterprise. A congressionally directed appropriation of \$750,000 has been provided in the House FY 2010 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill to help meet these needs.

This advanced research project will provide an important training component for both students and faculty, in this critical emerging field of research. It will serve as a platform for continued collaboration with other universities and key industry partners. It is also a logical continuation of the San Diego region's leadership role at both the state and federal levels in developing and deploying viable alternative energy and transportation fuel solutions. Further, the cutting edge R&D into alternative transportation fuels derived from algae enabled by this project will be reflective of current related policy goals and funding priorities of both the federal government and the State of California.

GOVERNORS OF CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters from the governors of California and Florida:

JULY 31, 2009.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID, SENATOR MCCONNELL, MADAM SPEAKER AND MR. BOEHNER: I appreciate your commitment and hard work toward reforming the nation's health care system. I think we can all agree that the current system is not working as it should, and I have long supported a significant overhaul. Costs continue to explode, while tens of millions remain uninsured or underinsured. Many families are one illness away from financial ruin—even if they do have insurance.

We have the greatest medical technology in the world at our fingertips, yet Americans' health status lags behind many countries that spend less than half what we do per capita. Any successful health care reform proposal must be comprehensive and built around the core principles of cost containment and affordability; prevention, wellness and health quality; and coverage for all.

COST CONTAINMENT AND AFFORDABILITY

Cost containment and affordability are essential not only for families, individuals and businesses, but also for state governments. Congress is proposing significant expansions of Medicaid to help reduce the number of uninsured and to increase provider reimbursement.

Today, California administers one of the most efficient Medicaid programs in the country, and still the state cannot afford its Medicaid program as currently structured and governed by federal rules and regulations. The House originally proposed fully funding the expansion with federal dollars, but due to cost concerns, members decided to shift a portion of these expansion costs to states. I will be clear on this particular proposal: if Congress thinks the Medicaid expansion is too expensive for the federal government, it is absolutely unaffordable for states. Proposals in the Senate envision passing on more than \$8 billion in new costs to California annually—crowding out other priority or constitutionally required state spending and presenting a false choice for all of us. I cannot and will not support federal health care reform proposals that impose billions of dollars in new costs on California each year.

The inclusion of maintenance of effort restrictions on existing state Medicaid programs only compounds any cost shift to states. We simply cannot be locked into a cost structure that is unsustainable. Governors have three primary ways to control Medicaid costs: they can adjust eligibility, benefits and/or reimbursement rates. Maintenance of effort requirements linked to existing Medicaid eligibility standards and procedures will effectively force state legislatures into autopilot spending and lead to chronic budget shortfalls.

The federal government must help states reduce their Medicaid financing burden, not increase it. A major factor contributing to Medicaid's fiscal instability, before any proposed expansion, is that the program effectively remains the sole source of financing for long-term care services. Therefore, I am encouraged by congressional proposals that create new financing models for long-term care services. Proposals that expand the availability and affordability of long-term care insurance are steps in the right direction, but they must be implemented in a fiscally sustainable way. More fundamentally, however, the federal government must take full responsibility for financing and coordinating the care of the dually eligible in order to appreciably reduce the cost trend for this group. This realignment of responsibilities is absolutely essential to controlling costs for this population, while ensuring that state governments will be better positioned to fill in any gaps that will undoubtedly arise from federal health care reform efforts. I also encourage Congress to incorporate other strategies to help stabilize Medicaid costs for states.

Delaying the scheduled phase-out of Medicaid managed care provider taxes pending enactment of new Medicaid rates, reimbursement for Medicaid claims owed to states associated with the federal government's improper classification of certain permanent disability cases, and federal support for legal immigrant Medicaid costs are examples of

federal efforts that could provide more stability to state Medicaid programs. Moreover, given the fiscal crisis that many states, including California, are experiencing, I strongly urge Congress to extend the temporary increase in the federal matching ratio to preserve the ability of state Medicaid programs to continue to provide essential services to low-income residents pending full implementation of national health reform.

PREVENTION, WELLNESS AND HEALTH QUALITY PREVENTION

Wellness and health promotion, along with chronic disease management, can help to lower the cost curve over the long run and improve health outcomes in the near term. This was one of the cornerstone pieces of my health care reform proposal in California, and I continue to believe it should be a key piece of the federal efforts. Prevention, wellness and chronic disease management programs should include both the individual and wider population levels.

At the individual level, proposals to provide refunds or other incentives to Medicare, Medicaid and private plan enrollees who successfully complete behavior modification programs, such as smoking cessation or weight loss, are critical reforms. To ensure they are widely used, individual prevention and wellness benefits should not be subject to beneficiary cost sharing.

Because individuals' behaviors are influenced by their environments, health reform must place a high priority on promoting healthy communities that make it easier for people to make healthy choices. California has demonstrated through its nationally recognized tobacco control efforts that population-based strategies can be effective and dramatically change the way the people think and act about unhealthy behaviors, such as tobacco use. A similar model, community transformation grants, has been advanced in the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension legislation, and it should be included to support policy, environmental, programmatic and infrastructure changes that address chronic disease risk factors, promote healthy living and decrease health disparities.

Quality improvement measures are also critical to health reform. The House proposal for a Center for Quality Improvement to improve patient safety, reduce healthcare-associated infections and improve patient outcomes and satisfaction is a positive step. Coordinated chronic disease management is necessary to improve outcomes for chronically ill people.

Systematic use of health information technology and health information exchange, including access for public health agencies, is vital to providing the necessary tools to measure the success of quality improvement efforts. Finally, investments in core public health infrastructure can be facilitated through the creation of the proposed Prevention and Wellness Trust.

COVERAGE FOR ALL

Coverage for all is also an essential element of health care reform and I believe an enforceable and effective individual mandate, combined with guaranteed issuance of insurance, is the best way to accomplish this goal. The individual mandate must provide effective incentives to help prevent adverse selection that could occur if the mandate is too weak. Creating transparent and user-friendly health insurance exchanges to help consumers compare insurance options will also help facilitate participation. States should maintain a strong role in regulating the insurance market and have the ability to maintain and operate their own exchanges, with the understanding that some national standards will need to be established. Cali-

fornia has a long history of protecting consumers through our two separate insurance regulators, one covering health maintenance organizations and the other monitoring all other insurance products. Maintaining a strong regulatory role at the state level is in the best interest of consumers, and I urge Congress to maintain this longstanding and effective relationship as you design these new market structures.

I hope our experience in California working toward comprehensive health care reform has informed the debate in Washington. There will be many short-term triumphs and seemingly insurmountable roadblocks for Congress and the nation on the road to comprehensive health care reform. We must all remain focused on the goal of fixing our health care system and remember that we all have something to gain from the reforms, and we all have a shared responsibility to achieve them. I look forward to working with you as you move forward on this desperately needed legislation.

Sincerely,

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
Governor, California.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009.

Hon. BILL NELSON,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR NELSON: Thank you for your valuable work on behalf of Floridians in the United States Congress. I am pleased with our ability to work together on issues important to our state, including the health and well being of our residents.

We can all agree that we need to work together to make quality health care more affordable and accessible, especially to those who currently do not have health insurance. I stand united with my fellow governors; however, with our concerns about how Congressional proposals may affect our ability to manage scarce state resources.

In the last year, enrollment in Florida's Medicaid program has increased from 2.2 million in July 1, 2008 to 2.63 million in July 2009, causing a strain on our state budget. Congressional proposals would increase those numbers by expanding Medicaid eligibility. Under the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee proposal for example, more than 1.46 million people would be added to our current Medicaid caseload in Florida at a cost of \$4.93 billion for the next fiscal year.

Although providing more access to health care for individuals and families in our struggling economy is an affable goal, our preliminary Florida estimates show that in the following year (State Fiscal Year 2010–2011), once the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Federal Medical Assistance Percentage funds have been exhausted, the impact increases as more than 1.72 million people are expected to be added to our case load at a cost of \$5.875 billion.

Some Members of Congress have indicated that states should shoulder some of the burden to fund the expansion of Medicaid at a time when our economy and residents are struggling. To pay for this expansion, states fear the need to cut critical services like education or public safety to add more money to Medicaid. This would have a crippling effect on Florida's state economy and the national economy.

In addition, state Medicaid programs currently take on the burden of financing long term care services for our aging and disabled residents. Due to our large elderly population, Florida is estimating expenditures of \$4.3 billion for state fiscal year 2009–2010 (this includes coverage of institutional care, home and community based waiver and our nursing home diversion waiver services). Medicaid is the primary payor for nearly two-

thirds of all nursing home residents in the state. While the U.S. Senate HELP proposal and the House bill call for the creation of a new voluntary federal insurance program for community-based long-term care services, the Congressional Budget Office has questioned the long term viability of this provision. Any federal health care reform discussion must include a combined federal and state approach to the financing and provision of Medicaid and long term care services.

Lack of health insurance is the greatest barrier to accessing health care. With nearly four million Floridians currently lacking health insurance, our state has launched initiatives designed to reduce that number and assist those who need prescription medication. Many of these programs can serve as examples to our nation. I have attached a brief summary outlining several of these successful programs Florida is using to address the health care needs of our residents, while targeting ways to reduce costs to our health care system.

The partnership between our state and our federal government is critical in enabling Florida to serve its residents, and I stand ready to work with you to address those issues which are most essential in health care reform: access and affordability. Our goal should remain clear: maintaining a high quality health care system which allows individuals to get treatment when they need it. I hope I can count on your support to work together on solutions to improve care at the same time as providing sustainability in essential programs like Medicaid through sound financing options at the state and federal levels. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE CRIST,
Governor, Florida.

TRIBUTE TO CEE SALBERG—RECIPIENT OF 2009 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARDS, SACRED HEART SCHOOLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Cee Salberg, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, *The Heart of the Matter*, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

This year, Cee Salberg was chosen along with two other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for her tireless work as an educator as well as to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Her award was presented by Mr. James Everitt, who gave this speech at the Awards Ceremony in tribute to Cee:

I am still a little unclear as to why Cee Salberg asked me to introduce her for this prestigious award. I cannot figure out if she asked me to do her this honor because I don't actually work in the pre-school and Kindergarten so, therefore, I don't really know how she behaves on a daily basis. Or, if it is because she knows that I am afraid of her and that it is unlikely that I will share anything other than the most positive sentiments about her. In any case, tonight we get to celebrate a wonderful and a brilliant educator.

I am so thrilled to be able to introduce Cee Salberg for the St. Madeleine Sophie Award tonight. As I understand it, this award is given to those who have committed themselves to Sacred Heart Schools and who embody the Spirit of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. For those of you who know Cee it is clear to you why she is the winner of this award. Put quite simply . . .

Cee has the vision of Sophie.

Cee has the courage of Sophie.

Cee has the generosity of Sophie.

Cee has the direct communication style of Sophie.

And most importantly, Cee has the single-hearted love of children that we believe is the most important characteristic of Sophie's own life and legacy.

I believe it is this last characteristic that has landed Cee here this evening. Cee has a single-hearted love of children that is awe inspiring for those who work closely with her and for those whose children have been in the pre-school and kindergarten. If you speak to children who attended our Montessori program they will tell you that they love Ms. Salberg. One high school student told me that Ms. Salberg is the kindest woman that she knows.

However, let me get something clear from the beginning. I am not suggesting that Cee is touchy-feely or that she has never been accused of being aloof or unfriendly. She is in fact, sometimes scary for parents and other adults. As Rich Dioli recently said to me, "Cee may not say hi to every parent who walks through the door but she knows every kid by name and she is the best educator we have." I have several funny anecdotes about times when Cee has scared me but I will save those for her retirement roast in about 15 years.

After Cee invited me to introduce her, which I am sure she is now regretting, I started asking people about her and why they felt that she should be the recipient of this award. I had a great time. People feel very strongly about Cee and almost every person I spoke with, particularly those that work in the preschool and kindergarten, made it clear that they are thrilled that she is receiving this award. And they feel strongly about her for four reasons: because she loves scotch, because she loves the San Francisco Giants, because she keeps chocolate stocked in the faculty room and, most importantly, because everything she does—every day—is about the children that walk through the doors of the Montessori building. I was tempted to summarize what people said about Cee but perhaps I should just report some of the thoughts that Cee's colleagues have about her. . . .

Cee has always been available to me when I needed advice, a sounding board, or a kind shoulder on which to cry. She has helped me navigate the Sacred Heart experience. She has been a constant beacon for all of us.

Cee has a loving and giving heart. She is committed to the mission of the school; to economic, social, and ethnic diversity and she is an educational leader that works very closely with her teachers to ensure that the students are being loved and having success in the classroom.

Cee travels the world to learn about other cultures and enhances her own life to better understand humanity.

Cee is kind.

Cee believes in our mission and does everything possible to instill the mission of the school in the children.

Each decision Cee makes is for the children.

Although some say she is not warm and fuzzy—my entire family adores her. She is there for the children and that is what matters.

Cee cares about every child in her school—no matter what.

Cee teaches the children independence, respect, kindness, understanding, and thoughtfulness—everything a parent wants in a child.

Cee is not a woman of many words but she hears all.

Cee always has the perfect outfit for every occasion; classy and elegant.

Cee will bend down and pick up every last scrap of litter under the lunch tables.

Cee is organized, efficient and thrives on order—the preschool runs like a well oiled machine under her control.

Cee is a blessing; a wonderful leader for the parents, children and her staff—I feel proud to be a member of her staff.

Cee has always based her goals for the Montessori on the Goals and Criteria.

Cee has led us to be a faculty that values professional growth, love of God and one another, and social justice.

Cee encourages teachers to keep up on all the newest information in teaching and often gives us professional articles, internet sites, and always encourages us to attend classes and workshops.

Cee has a professional commitment to get to know each student at the Montessori. She spends from 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at recess each day, observing and interacting with the children.

Cee always encourages early intervention when students are having difficulties socially, emotionally, or academically.

Most importantly Cee has dedicated her years here to boost our financial aid, based on her value of social justice. We now have many wonderful students who would not have been able to attend Sacred Heart without Cee's dedication to financial aid increases.

I am guessing that by now you have gotten the point. Cee is wonderful. In fact, she sounds almost perfect. So, let me share with you some of her shortcomings. Just kidding Cee.

I do, however, want to share with you how I feel about Cee Salberg.

It is unlikely that you will ever hear Cee give a speech about God, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat or the Mission of the School. It would surprise me to find Cee in a large group talking about the latest instructional strategies or arguing about pedagogical methods. It is rare that you will find Cee making loud protests against injustice. It is unusual to hear Cee gossiping about a colleague or undermining the work of her peers. I can almost guarantee that you won't find Cee creating arbitrary policies that prevent a child's growth.

But in my experience you will . . .

Find Cee hugging her students and making sure that they feel loved.

Find Cee allocating resources for teacher development and creating an environment at the Montessori in which student interest drives student learning and achievement.

Find Cee fighting for financial aid and non-tuition related financial aid so that all students have access to a Sacred Heart education.

Find Cee confronting parents and colleagues who do things that don't build community. And, you will find the kind joy and

laughter in the Montessori building that is at the very heart of building community.

And, my favorite, you will find Cee on vacation in the middle of the school year because she values balance in her life and she understands the importance of her family.

I was not surprised to learn that Cee was nominated and ultimately selected to be one of the St. Madeleine Sophie Award winners. Cee has been an amazing mentor to me and I can say from the very depth of my being that I have learned more from Cee Salberg about teaching and learning and about what it means to be a Sacred Heart educator than from any other person in my career. Cee is a woman who St. Madeleine Sophie Barat and St. Rose Philippine Duchesne would recognize as one of their own.

I want to end by reading a nice poem that was written by a member of Cee's staff.

There once was a principal named Cee
As good at her job as she could be.
She juggles admins, parents, kids and teachers,

But she'd rather be cheering in the bleachers
For the San Francisco Giants, her favorite team.

Soon, the World Series? Hey, a girl can dream!

Cee and Keir travel to many a port.
And luckily, Janet can hold down the fort.
At work and at home, Cee has a great crew.
She's the captain, she knows what to do!
For Cee to get this award, we're all very proud,

And not a bit shy to say right out loud:
She deserves this award and can pass any test.

All of us know that Cee is the best!

Cee, it is a true honor and pleasure to be your friend and your colleague. I look forward to celebrating your retirement with you in about 15-20 years.

Congratulations.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our congratulations to Cee Salberg on the very special occasion of being chosen for the St. Madeleine Sophie Award, and for all she does daily to strengthen our community and our country.

SUPPORTING CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 167, a resolution that supports the goals and ideals of recognizing September as Campus Fire Safety Month. This recognition would both heighten awareness and encourage improvements in the overall safety on our college and university campuses.

Since January 2000, 129 people including students, parents, and children, have died in student housing fires, many of which were preventable. Currently a majority of college students live off campus, and eighty percent of these deaths have occurred in off campus housing. One recent example is more personal for me. Over the 2008 Christmas break, there was a suspected arson at the Sigma Nu fraternity house at Texas A&M University. Thankfully, no one was residing in the house at that time, but as a Sigma Nu from my days

at Georgia Tech, my prayers continue to be with the chapter in Texas for the rebuilding of their residence.

Nationally, more needs to be done to improve campus-wide fire safety awareness programs so as to prevent the loss of life and property damage on college and university campuses. Many of these fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised, are obsolete, or have been disabled by occupants. College administrations must continue to make students aware of the need for automatic fire alarm systems and the safety they provide to occupants and local fire departments.

Madam Speaker, fire safety education is imperative on college and university campuses across the nation. This resolution encourages administrators and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing. It further calls upon them take the necessary steps to ensure fire safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution so that we can protect future generations of our nation's leaders from the devastating and potentially life threatening effects of campus fires.

GOVERNORS OF IDAHO, INDIANA, AND LOUISIANA EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the record the following letters from the governors of Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana and Minnesota:

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009.

Hon. MIKE CRAPO,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: Idaho has a proud history of fiscal responsibility, ensuring that our State government serves its proper role for the people of Idaho while staying within their financial means. As the United States Congress attempts to address the healthcare challenges facing our nation, it is important that we remain diligent in assessing the implications of our decisions, always ensuring that we take seriously our duty to safeguard the financial resources of the American public, and allocating taxpayer money in an efficient and effective manner.

As revised healthcare proposals continue appearing in Congress, the full consequences

of these reforms remain unknown and we are uncertain of the possible negative impacts on local businesses, families and senior citizens. However, it is clear that these sweeping proposals would irresponsibly shift a substantial and unmanageable financial burden to the states. Like Idaho, many states already are functioning under severely limited and strained budgets. It is certain that the burden of these reforms would be placed upon the shoulders of hardworking Americans.

The costs associated with these proposed reforms are astounding. Conservative estimates from the Idaho Division of Medicaid indicate that the bill's Medicaid eligibility proposal would increase our state share of Medicaid and the federal matching rate effective would drop in the middle of fiscal year 2011, leaving Idaho struggling to fill the void. Idaho's tax base could not support this large unfunded mandate without resorting to tax increases, including a possible increase in Idaho's already 6-percent sales tax—an irresponsible action which would do serious harm to Idaho taxpayers. The proposed reforms would impose an undue burden on citizens already struggling in this difficult economy.

It has been estimated that combined federal-state Medicaid costs in Idaho could increase by \$501 million. In addition, raising the Medicaid reimbursement rate to 110 percent of the Medicare reimbursement rate would increase total federal-state costs \$50 million more.

This proposed change in the federal reimbursement rate likely would reduce the number of plans that are offered to persons on Medicare, resulting in increased premiums and reduced services and access to service providers. Seniors in rural Idaho already have trouble finding providers who accept Medicare patients.

Should these changes be approved, that trend could continue statewide—severely limiting access to medical care for some of Idaho's most vulnerable residents. The people of Idaho have entrusted us with a responsibility to use our government resources wisely and efficiently. Imposing costly federal mandates that cannot be sustained in the long run is an irresponsible violation of this public trust. Quite simply, these proposals are financially irresponsible and would not adequately address the needs of senior citizens and other vulnerable groups.

I encourage you to join me in opposing current health care reform proposals. By ending these nonsensical debates and stopping the proposed reforms, we can move forward in a more positive, measured and reasonable direction, using common sense to find a workable healthcare solution that benefits all Americans.

As Always—Idaho "Esto Perpetua",
C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER,
Governor, Idaho.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009.

Hon. RICHARD LUGAR,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LUGAR: During your summer recess I am sure that many, if not all of you heard from your constituents regarding health care reform.

I have heard from them as well. In fact, over the past few months, I have watched Americans come forward to passionately express their anxieties about the legislation currently making its way through Congress. Their worries are well-founded.

There is no disputing the fact that aspects of American health care, such as access and affordability, truly do need to be restructured and improved. Yet, I have serious concerns about Congress's proposed solutions to these problems. In fact, I fear the current rush to overhaul the system will ultimately

do more damage than good and create far more problems than it solves.

And unfortunately, Indiana would bear the brunt of many of the reckless policies being proposed. For example, our Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), an innovative and successful state sponsored health insurance program for uninsured citizens, would suffer greatly as Congress expands Medicaid coverage, forcing many of the Hoosiers already enrolled in HIP out of the plan and into a broken Medicaid program that does not focus on prevention, healthy lifestyles, or personal responsibility.

Additionally, states will likely have to pick up the tab for this extension of Medicaid. We have estimated that the price for Indiana could reach upwards of \$724 million annually. These additional costs will overwhelm our resources and obliterate the reserves we have fought so hard to protect.

While these reforms could do serious damage to our state, I fear they will also have harmful consequences all across the country by reducing the quality and quantity of available medical care, stifling innovation, and further burdening taxpayers.

There is another way. Americans from all walks of life and every political stripe should work together with President Obama and Congress to create a set of measured and sensible reforms that bring down costs, increase access and portability and stress the importance of innovative state-run health insurance programs.

The majority of Americans do believe that health care reform is needed, but do not believe that the legislation currently on offer is the answer. I agree. And I will do everything in my power to raise these concerns and work with you to find a solution.

Sincerely,

MITCH DANIELS,
Governor, Indiana.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

Hon. STEVE SCALISE,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SCALISE: I join many of my fellow Republican and Democrat governors in expressing concern with any health care legislation being signed into law that would serve as an unfunded mandate to states.

Louisiana is similar to many other states around the country in that we are attempting to address budgetary deficits in large part by working to streamline government to be more efficient and cost-effective. In short, we are trying to emulate many of our working families, small businesses and seniors by watching our spending, doing more with less, and making every dollar count.

However, Louisiana's budgetary situation is uniquely challenged due to an unprecedented FMAP rate drop from 72 to 63.1 percent beginning next fiscal year that will cost Louisiana at least \$700 million annually. This additional cost will place significant pressures on our ability to expand our economy, create new jobs and protect critical services in our state.

Louisiana is proud of its commitment to its citizens' health in the face of long-standing issues of extreme poverty experienced in few other states. Our state is a national model for insuring children with over a 95% rate of child insurance and we were recently recognized for achieving the 2nd highest child immunization rates in the nation after an intensive state-wide private-public effort.

My Department of Health & Hospitals has submitted a Medicaid waiver to the US Department of Health & Human Services that

can help improve the cost and quality delivered in the Medicaid program. This waiver proposes national best practices of coordinated care, medical homes, provider payment reform, electronic medical records, and consumer incentives to manage cost and improve quality. This proposal can help improve the efficiency in Medicaid and utilize those savings, along with the shifting of DSH dollars from expensive hospital based care to community based outpatient care, to expand coverage through private insurance to tens of thousands of adults in our state.

Again, I ask that you consider the budgetary pressures being felt by Louisiana and many other states and avoid passing any health care legislation that would serve as an unfunded mandate to the states.

Best regards,

BOBBY JINDAL,
Governor, Louisiana.

[From the Washington Post, Aug. 3, 2009]
TO FIX HEALTH CARE, FOLLOW THE STATES
(By Governor Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota)

If you tie money to results, you'll get better results. Unfortunately, government often dumps money into programs without regard to accountability and outcomes. This past week, Democrats in Congress have been busy tinkering with a Washington takeover of the health-care system, but perhaps they should look instead to the states for models of market-driven, patient-centered and quality-focused reform. Rather than taking power away from states, federal health-care reform should use the lessons we've learned tackling this crisis in our back yards.

In Minnesota, our state employee health-care plan has demonstrated incredible results by linking outcomes to value. State employees in Minnesota can choose any clinic available to them in the health-care network they've selected. However, individuals who use more costly and less-efficient clinics are required to pay more out-of-pocket. Not surprisingly, informed health-care consumers vote wisely with their feet and their wallets. Employees overwhelmingly selected providers who deliver higher quality and lower costs as a result of getting things right the first time. The payoff is straightforward: For two of the past five years, we've had zero percent premium increases in the state employee insurance plan.

Minnesota has also implemented an innovative program called QCARE, for Quality Care and Rewarding Excellence. QCARE identifies quality measures, sets aggressive outcome targets for providers, makes comparable measures transparent to the public and changes the payment system to reward quality rather than quantity. We must stop paying based on the number of procedures and start paying based on results.

Instead of returning power to patients and rewarding positive outcomes, many Democrats in Washington want a government-run plan that would require states to comply with dozens of new mandates and regulations. One study by the Lewin Group recently concluded that an estimated 114 million Americans could be displaced from their current coverage under such a plan, and another study by House Republicans said the plan could result in the loss of up to 5 million jobs over the next 10 years.

In typical fashion, the self-proclaimed experts piecing together this Democratic health-care legislation are focusing on only one leg—access—of a three-legged stool that also includes cost and quality. Expanding access to health care is a worthwhile goal. But equal or greater focus should be placed on

containing costs for the vast majority of Americans who already have insurance. Those costs will not be contained by a massive expansion of federal programs.

Massachusetts's experience should caution Congress against focusing primarily on access. While the Massachusetts plan has reduced the number of uninsured people, costs have been dramatically higher than expected. The result? Increased taxes and fees. The Boston Globe has reported on a current short-term funding gap and the need to obtain a new federal bailout.

Imagine the scope of tax increases, or additional deficit spending, if that approach is utilized for the entire country.

IN HONOR OF THE CALIFORNIA
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND
STAFF WHO HAVE SERVED OUR
NATION IN IRAQ

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask this chamber to recognize the students, faculty, and staff at California University of Pennsylvania who have valiantly served their country in Iraq. Cal. U. students have an exemplary record of serving our country in times of need and have done so again during the war in Iraq.

There have been nineteen California University students who have been deployed to Iraq. Furthermore, five members of the staff and faculty were also deployed. Many were part of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, north of Baghdad. This was the largest National Guard call-up in support of a single operation in the history of the university. I have joined my colleagues in recognizing the 56th Stryker Brigade by becoming an original cosponsor of H. Res. 754, which honors the citizen-soldiers of the National Guard of the State of Pennsylvania, including the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker) of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard on its return to the United States from deployment in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, these students, just like countless others across Pennsylvania and the rest of the country, are choosing to serve their nation and put their own education on hold.

I have seen the consequences and effects of returning home after combat and I am pleased that Cal. U. has an Office of Veterans Affairs. This office has been instrumental in helping veterans reintegrate into the university community and has helped to facilitate the issuance of G.I. Bill benefits. This is an excellent way to help those who have given so much to our country.

I wish to conclude my remarks by commending the California University of Pennsylvania students, faculty and staff members who have selflessly dedicated themselves to our great nation by serving their country. I would also like to commend students and university staff and faculty across our great nation who have done the same.

RECOGNIZING DYKE MARSH
WILDLIFE PRESERVE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 701, honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve.

Fifty years ago, commercial dredging and dumping operations threatened the very existence of Dyke Marsh. In 1959, Congress designated Dyke Marsh as a protected wetland habitat, allowing it today to provide a vital habitat for over 6,500 species of animals and plants, and serve as one of the national capital area's most cherished wetland and wildlife preserves.

I am proud to have taken part in the designation of Dyke Marsh. The best times of my life were hunting and fishing with my dad and, later in life, with my children. I want to ensure others are able to enjoy the outdoors in that same meaningful way.

This anniversary reminds me of the great times John Saylor, Henry Reuss and I shared while working on environmental and conservation legislation together. They were great friends and legislators, and I am proud of what we were able to accomplish. John was wise to have once said: 'We are a great people because we have been successful in developing and using our marvelous natural resources; but, also, we Americans are the people we are largely because we have had the influence of the wilderness on our lives.'

I am also reminded of a quote by another great leader, Winston Churchill. Churchill, as you know, enjoyed the occasional drink. One day he was meeting with a group of women who were offended by his consumption of alcohol. They said 'Mr. Churchill, if you lined the walls of your office with the alcohol you have consumed, it would be up to here.' Churchill looked up, thought for a moment, looked at the ladies and said, 'So much to do, so little time.' We should be proud of the good our work towards conservation has done, but remember we have more to do.

The Gentleman from Virginia, Mr. MORAN, is to be commended for his hard work in protecting Dyke Marsh and for the good work he has done from his perch in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior. Important conservation programs are better off because of his wisdom and diligence.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the hard work of the Friends of Dyke Marsh. This organization, currently under the leadership of Glenda Booth, has done a great job of protecting this beautiful space and getting the story of Dyke Marsh out. Friends of Dyke Marsh is an outstanding advocacy organization and they have much of which to be proud.

I urge all my colleagues to rise and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 754, I was unable to reach the House floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

GOVERNORS OF MISSISSIPPI AND
NEBRASKA EXPRESS CONCERNS
WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN
HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters from the governors of Mississippi and Nebraska:

AUGUST 6, 2009.

Hon. GREGG HARPER,
Cannon HOB,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HARPER: As Congress debates healthcare reform, I want to raise a few issues of concern with the policies being considered in both House and Senate bills. Healthcare reform is truly a bipartisan issue; after all, Republicans and Democrats understand that our healthcare system faces significant challenges—from steadily increasing medical costs to confusing insurance provisions. As the national debate continues, it is important that everyone realizes the severe impact the proposed legislation would have on states like Mississippi.

As Governor, I am particularly concerned about the direction the Senate and House are taking in regards to Medicaid expansion. Instead of discussing policies to reform a broken system, the debate in Congress has shifted to finding ways to fund an expanded Medicaid program at the state level. At the end of the day, both the Senate and House proposals are unfunded mandates, which, for states like Mississippi, would result in burdensome and costly changes to the system.

For example, when we talk about sharing the cost of an expanded Medicaid program, Mississippi would pay another \$333 million annually under a larger program covering up to 150 percent below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). A Medicaid program covering up to 133 percent FPL expansion would cost an extra \$297 million. In many states, funding the current Medicaid programs robs other critical programs. The same is true for us. Each year we struggle to cover our Med-

icaid expenses while providing for essential services including public education and public safety.

While there has been some discussion at the federal level to assist states in paying for this expansion, my staff learned last week that the Senate Finance Committee is proposing to cap the amount of federal money distributed to the states to pay for this expansion at \$40 billion over 10 years. Estimates show the cost of expanding the Medicaid system to all states at the lowest level, or 133 percent FPL, is \$30 billion per year. At 133 percent FPL, states would be saddled with Medicaid expansion costs in the second year of expansion.

These projections are overwhelming as Mississippi, like all states, continues to grapple with budget realities. Our General Fund Revenue collections for July 2009 are 11.27 percent below our estimate. Compared to the prior year, collections for this July are 21.43 percent or \$56.3 million below what was collected in July 2008. During Fiscal Year 2009, Mississippi's revenue was \$390 million short of the revenue estimate, causing most of state government, except for education and Medicaid, to take approximately a 6 percent cut in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

Our Fiscal Year 2010 budget included \$523 million in stimulus funds; otherwise, we would have faced even more significant cuts. It will take our state years to catch up, and that's without a \$297 million or \$333 million Medicaid state-share increase.

Further, the proposed healthcare reform legislation also includes numerous tax increases to finance significant expansions of government-run healthcare. Different versions of the House legislation incorporate a payroll tax on small businesses. Although the recent House Energy and Commerce Committee agreement included an 8 percent payroll tax for small businesses with an annual payroll of \$500,000, previous versions taxed small businesses with a payroll of \$250,000.

This tax will do nothing more than punish wage and job growth, especially when you consider that the tax rate increases as the size of payroll increases. According to the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), such employer mandates could cost 1.6 million jobs with more than 1 million of those jobs lost in the small business sector. That means higher taxes for Mississippians, since 96.7 percent of our employers are small businesses. In addition, the Senate HELP Committee proposal requires employers to offer health coverage to their employees and contribute at least 60 percent of the premium cost or pay \$750 for each employee that is not offered coverage.

Language in the proposed legislation also would mandate an individual to purchase health insurance and, should he be unable to afford such coverage, he'll be slapped with a 2.5 percent additional income tax for the coverage. But the proposed legislation goes even further, taxing higher income individuals beginning at \$280,000 and families at \$350,000 on a sliding scale.

This language generates a massive tax increase on high income filers, more than half of whom are small business owners already being taxed if they do not provide health insurance to their employees. A tax increase in the middle of a recession, with unemployment rising, is not the answer.

Besides increasing taxes, the House bill cuts Medicare nearly \$500 billion. These cuts include reductions to Medicare providers and hospitals, while gutting Medicare Advantage by \$150 billion to \$160 billion. Admittedly, I am baffled as to why Congress would propose slicing funding for a program that our seniors support and that provides for their health and well-being.

As Congress heads home for the recess, I urge Members to review the proposed legislation with their state leadership. I am primarily concerned about the effect this legislation may have on Mississippi's financial stability, both now and in the future. These so-called "reforms" would severely impact Mississippi's budget and our ability to fund other important priorities, like education and public safety. Before Congress makes such sweeping reforms to our healthcare system, I implore you to first ensure that these changes are efficient and beneficial to our citizens, without burdening our states through unfunded mandates.

Sincerely,

HALEY BARBOUR,
Governor, Mississippi.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009.

Hon. ROGER WICKER,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WICKER: Governors across the nation are growing increasingly concerned about the financial strain rising healthcare costs are putting on state budgets. During the National Governors Association (NGA) meeting in July, governors—both Republicans and Democrats—formalized their opposition to current Congressional reform proposals by issuing a policy opposing unfunded mandates that shifts costs to the states. This will necessarily require almost all states to raise taxes to manage this burden. In Mississippi, the issue of Medicaid expansion hits close to home, since our state's share of the Medicaid program is currently \$707 million, or 12 percent of a \$5.87 billion state supported budget, which includes temporary stimulus funds.

Nevertheless, the current proposals, both in the House and Senate, will expand the Medicaid program at additional costs paid not by the federal government, but passed down to the states. After a call with the governors representing the NGA Healthcare Task Force and the Senate Finance Committee, Chairman Baucus told the news media it would be impossible for the federal government to pick up all the costs for new Medicaid recipients; thus, states would have to bear some of the costs.

Why? Although CBO appears to estimate that H.R. 3200 will cost more than \$1 trillion over the next ten years, the fine print reveals the true cost would be much higher. By imposing tax increases early in the budget window, before the bulk of the spending occurs, the true cost of the bill is hidden by budget gimmickry. Delaying the implementation of the program until the fourth year also uses budget tricks effectively to hide the immense long-term cost of this proposal. CBO has projected a 10 year deficit of more than \$200 billion associated with the bill as is. However, when the full cost of the bill is taken into account after it is fully implemented, the spending in the bill skyrockets to nearly \$2 trillion over 10 years (2014-23) with a deficit of more than \$600 billion. I have included an attachment showing the scoring of H.R. 3200 the only comprehensive health care reform bill CBO has scored.

According to the National Association of State Budget Officers, Medicaid expenses in 2007 for federal and state government combined were \$336 billion. This number is projected to reach \$523 billion by 2013, a 56 percent increase in just six years. Should the reforms being debated in Congress become law, Mississippi would be saddled with an average increase of \$360 million in additional costs, on top of the already \$707 million it costs to fund Mississippi's annual state share of the Medicaid program. These proposals, which would cover all individuals at 133 percent federal poverty level (FPL), will burden

state budgets, forcing states to raise taxes. In Mississippi, that would necessarily mean increases in our state income or sales tax rates. Mississippi, like so many states, simply can't afford to pick up the tab for another unfunded mandate passed by Congress.

Such state tax increases would be on top of the federal tax increases already included in the House and Senate bills, like huge tax increases on small businesses whether in the form of an additional 8 percent payroll tax or a 5.4 percent income tax surcharge. During a deep recession, when most people believe job creation and economic growth should be top priorities, huge tax increases will make it more expensive to employ people; consequently, employers will employ fewer people.

Medicare, the nation's largest provider of health coverage for the elderly and people with disabilities covering over 46 million Americans, is on the chopping block. CBO has estimated that provisions in H.R. 3200 would lead to a total of \$162.2 billion in cuts being taken from Medicare Advantage plans. This \$162.2 billion impacts 11 million people and represents nearly \$15,000 in new costs passed to every Medicare Advantage senior beneficiary. These harmful and arbitrary cuts could result in Medicare Advantage plans dropping out of the program, harming beneficiary choice, and causing millions of seniors to lose their current coverage. Moreover, the bill grants federal bureaucrats the power to eliminate the Medicare Advantage program entirely, making the oft-repeated statement, "if you like your plan you can keep it," ring hollow for seniors.

Lastly, if we are trying to make health care more affordable, how do you leave out tort reform? After all, litigation and the resulting practice of defensive medicine add tens of billions to the cost of health care. In Mississippi we passed comprehensive tort reform in 2004, partially to stop lawsuit abuse in the area of medical liability. It worked. Medical liability insurance costs are down 42 percent, and doctors have received an average rebate of 20 percent of their annual paid premium. The number of medical liability lawsuits against Mississippi doctors fell almost 90 percent one year after tort reform went into effect. Doctors have quit leaving the state and limiting their practices to avoid lawsuit abuse.

With all the issues concerning a government-run health care system, I wanted to warn you of the state tax increases Mississippi will shoulder on top of the federal tax increases in the pending bills as well as my concern for the increased costs our senior citizens will face as Medicare Advantage is cut. Congress must slow down and work in a bipartisan manner. Everybody agrees that health reform is needed, but it should be done thoughtfully. I hope you'll keep this important information in mind when proposals that shift costs to states or to our senior citizens are considered.

Sincerely,

HALEY BARBOUR,
Governor, Mississippi.

JULY 21, 2009.

Hon. BENJAMIN NELSON,
U.S. Senator, Hart Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE JOHANNES,
U.S. Senator, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR NELSON AND SENATOR JOHANNES: I just returned from the National Governors Association meeting and much of the discussion among Governors was about health care. As former Governors, I thought you might appreciate the information that we received from the NGA staff. Attached are seven handouts.

The handouts and discussion among Governors reflect concerns about funding, cost,

Medicaid, employer mandate, and insurance reforms. The single most important concern was this legislation would be the biggest unfunded mandate on the fifty states in the history of our country.

President Obama has told the Governors that health care reform must not be an unfunded mandate for the states. I am in strong agreement that an unfunded health care mandate would be unfair to state taxpayers.

In handout 4, NGA Executive Director Ray Scheppach outlines concerns about Medicaid in the context of health care reform. He indicates that if the Medicaid expansion becomes an unfunded mandate, states are likely to reduce their investments in education. That would be very unfortunate and as Scheppach writes "Reducing state education investment will lower U.S. competitiveness, productivity and real income of U.S. citizens. This is not good long-run policy for the U.S."

While I have other concerns about health care reform, one of the most troubling aspects is the potential for an unfunded mandate on the states. I strongly urge you to avoid an unfunded mandate on the states. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DAVE HEINEMAN,
Governor, Nebraska.

FORMER CONGRESSMAN
BRADEMAs AWARDED HONORARY DEGREE BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GREECE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to note that on June 27, 2009, our distinguished former colleague in the House of Representatives, Dr. John Brademas, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by The American College of Greece.

John Brademas was the first Greek-American elected to the United States House of Representatives and as such this honorary degree from The American College of Greece has particular symbolic resonance. I add, however, that this is the 55th honorary degree received by Dr. Brademas.

Madam Speaker, the remarks of Dr. Brademas at The American College of Greece on June 27, 2009 follow.

JUNE 27, 2009.

REMARKS OF DR. JOHN BRADEMAs, PRESIDENT EMERITUS, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, NEO FALIRO, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP STADIUM, ATHENS, GREECE

Father Constantinos, President Horner, Dr. Sue Horner, Consul General McKeever, Chancellor Bailey, chairman Peter Thun of the Board of Trustees, Senior Vice President Protopsaltis, fellow honorees, members of the faculty and graduating students of The American College of Greece.

It is for more than one reason that I count the award I have just received among the great honors of my life, and I'm especially pleased that my wife, Mary Ellen, a practicing physician, was able to break away from New York City to join us here.

In the first place, this is a degree from The American College of Greece. As you know, my late father, Stephen J. Brademas, was born in Greece—in Kalamata—and my two brothers and sister and I were all raised to be deeply proud of our Hellenic heritage.

"Be proud that you are an American", my father used to say, but "be proud, too, that you are a Greek!"

All four of the Brademas children were deeply conscious of the importance of our Greek background.

Here let me say how pleased I am that my cousin, Anna Bredima, General Counsel for the Union of Greek Shipowners, is here today with her two children, Evangelo and Ersiliana.

Anna, by the way, is a graduate of Pierce College.

Although my mother was not of Greek descent she was, like her father, a teacher—and that fact emphasizes another dimension of his Greek ancestry that my father used to press upon his children—the importance of learning, of knowledge, of education.

A second dimension of the history of Greece that my father and I often discussed was democracy. "We Greeks invented democracy!" my father reminded us, and said that some of us should still practice it.

Accordingly, after graduating from Harvard University and one year of postgraduate study there, I went to England, on a Rhodes Scholarship, to study at Oxford University. At Oxford, I wrote a doctoral dissertation on the anarchist movement in Spain but I like to note that although I studied anarchism, I did not practice it!

For on my return to my hometown in Indiana, I immediately plunged into politics and became a candidate for election to the Congress of the United States. Just old enough—25—under our Constitution to be a candidate, I lost my first race by half a percent. Naturally, I ran again, two years later, but lost a second time. Undaunted, I was first elected, on my third attempt, and then ten times re-elected. So I served as a Member of Congress for 22 years.

In the House of Representatives, I gave particular attention to writing legislation to support schools, colleges and universities; and the students who attend them; to measures to help libraries and museums; and the arts and the humanities, generally.

In my last four years as a Member of Congress, I was the Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, an assignment that brought me every other week, with Speaker of the House of Representatives, "Tip" O'Neill of Massachusetts, and the other Democratic Leaders of the House and Senate to breakfast at the White House with President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale. All Democrats, we talked politics and policy.

It was, of course, while a Member of Congress that I became deeply involved in the issue of Cyprus, a matter that continues to preoccupy me. I worked closely then with my valued friend, also a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and the first Greek-American elected to the United States Senate, Paul S. Sarbanes. And I'm pleased to note that Paul's son, John Sarbanes, now serves in the United States House of Representatives.

As I am the son of a Greek immigrant, I am pleased to call your attention to another son of Greek immigrants, both his father and mother. I speak of Peter C. Peterson, the highly successful and highly respected American business leader and public servant. Peter G. Peterson, co-founder of Blackstone Group and former Secretary of Commerce, has just published a fascinating book, *The Education of an American Dreamer*, which I am pleased to present to President Horner for the College library. Your faculty and students will find the story of this remarkable son of Greek immigrants inspiring. I am confident.

More modestly, I am pleased also to present a book of my own to The American College of Greece, *The Politics of Education*,

in which I describe my experience as a Member of Congress in writing legislation to assist schools, colleges and universities; the students who attend them; and measures to assist libraries and museums.

I move ahead, In 1980, as a result of the landslide victory of Ronald Reagan, I lost my race for reelection to a twelfth term. Shortly thereafter, I was invited to become president of New York University, the largest private, or independent, university in the United States. In 1991 I became president emeritus, my present responsibility, so now I'm only going some twelve hours a day!

If I were to single out one dimension, of my commitment to strengthening New York University, it would be that I gave particular attention to building our programs for the study of other countries and cultures, not only through programs in New York City but centers abroad as well. Much of the responsibility of an American university president focuses on fundraising, both from the Federal government and private sources. So I pressed hard, and, I believe, effectively, to bolster the financial situation of New York University.

I must add just a word about my present initiative, another strongly shaped by my Greek origins, the establishment at NYU of the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress, of Congress as a policy-making institution.

Let me explain that unlike parliamentary institutions in Europe, the Congress of the United States has great power, in addition to that of the President of the United States, to make national policy. But with 100 Senators and 435 Representatives and without the party discipline characteristic of parliamentary systems, it is not easy for even informed Americans to understand Congress. So we are, with the establishment of the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress at New York University, creating an institution that will bring together Senators, Representatives, scholars and citizens to discuss the ways in which our national legislature makes national policy and ways of improving the system.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, from what I have told you, I hope you can see that I have inherited from my Greek father at least two dimensions of the extraordinary contributions of Hellenic civilization to today's complex world: first, respect for learning, for education; and second, respect for politics, for democracy.

So even as I pay tribute to two distinguished persons you are also honoring here today, Andrew Athens, a valued friend of many years and an outstanding leader of the Greek-American community; and Mikis Theodorakis, musician, scholar, public servant, I reiterate how deeply touched I am to receive an honorary degree from The American College of Greece.

RECOGNITION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLEAN TRUCK PROGRAM

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the economic and environmental benefits the landmark Clean Truck Program has brought to southern California during its first year.

California is home to one of our nation's largest and most vibrant economic hubs: the

ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Unfortunately, the ports are also home to emissions generated by the short-haul transport of goods. The neighborhoods surrounding the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are disproportionately impacted by the air pollution caused by trucks and suffer from associated health problems including emphysema, asthma, and cancer.

Successfully addressing localized air pollution and climate change will require a national strategy and a federal framework to coordinate implementation of air quality goals. Cities, local communities and local government can and should play a role in our national strategy.

As seen by the Clean Truck Program's success, local governments are already making important contributions to federal efforts to improve air quality. On October 1, 2008 the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles implemented a ban on trucks with model years prior to 1989. Today, port officials estimate that approximately 1,500–2,000 "dirty" diesel trucks have been removed from drayage operations. The new trucks that replaced them generate 90 percent fewer emissions than the old dirty diesels.

Beyond cleaning the air the Clean Truck Program has successfully stimulated local economic activity. The program's financial incentives have stimulated \$500 million in private investment. Nationwide, new truck sales are down 60 percent. In contrast, truck dealers near the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles have reported a 33 percent year over year increase in sales due to the financing made available by the Clean Truck Program. These new truck sales include the sale of several liquefied natural gas trucks, which draw upon one of America's greatest energy assets.

Almost 800 trucking companies have embraced the program's financial incentives, resulting in the deployment of more than 5,000 2007 EPA compliant trucks. At the program's current pace, the ports estimate that by January 2010, more than 90 percent of the cargo transit at port terminals will be made by trucks meeting USEPA 2007 heavy duty truck emissions standards. This achievement will allow the ports to meet their 2012 goal of 80 percent emissions reductions from overall drayage operations two years ahead of schedule.

The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles Clean Truck Program has been a tremendous success and has brought economic and environmental benefits to the Area. I congratulate the ports on the first year of an innovative solution, and I optimistically look forward to the results of the program next year.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CLINICAL TRIALS THAT FOCUSED ON WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, people of color, both women and men, have historically been underrepresented in the medical profession, biomedical and biotechnology research, and clinical trials in the United States. As we move toward an era of personalized medicine,

we realize that small differences between people become critically important in devising more effective, tailored treatments to improve and extend quality of life while helping doctors and patients better prevent and treat disease. Language and cultural barriers, stigma about participating in studies, and a historical lack of diverse community involvement in clinical trials by industry must be overcome so that all of our communities can be assured that they equally participate in the future of medicine.

To address this problem, we need more studies that reflect the changing face of the HIV/AIDS and other epidemics, both on effective messaging and education campaigns for the diverse group of affected individuals and on possible vaccines. One notable example of this kind of effort is the Gender Race and Clinical Experience (GRACE) study conducted by Tibotec Therapeutics, part of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies. The GRACE study, findings from which were recently presented at the International AIDS Society conference in South Africa, is the largest study to date to examine gender and race differences in response to an HIV therapy. In addition, the trial was designed to help overcome some of the barriers, identified by the advisors, which have historically deterred women and people of color from participating in clinical studies, including stigma, lack of child care, transportation and personal support systems. Based upon advisor and community input, study participants could obtain assistance to cover costs associated with their participation in the study, including funds for travel and childcare, as well as food vouchers. Through innovative strategies like these, the GRACE study was able to enroll seventy percent women, sixty percent African Americans and twenty-two percent Latinos. I believe that the GRACE study is significant for reasons beyond just its clinical results. Studies like this, which are designed to overcome the barriers to participation and engage affected communities and providers show that with greater industry effort, meaningful numbers of women and racial and ethnic minorities can be enrolled in important clinical trials.

For example, studies in the United States and across the world are seeking an answer to the devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic. The epidemic is changing its face, spreading into new populations and presenting new challenges to education and outreach efforts. In the United States, women are increasingly affected by HIV/AIDS, accounting for more than one quarter of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses, with African American and Latina women representing seventy-nine percent of women living with the disease. HIV/AIDS disproportionately impacts our African American and Latino communities, and the infection rate is rising among Asian American and Pacific Islanders as well. In my home state of California, there are almost 150,000 people living with AIDS, and Latinos represent about one-quarter of these cases. There are over 60,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the greater Los Angeles area alone. In terms of new HIV infections, Latina women are infected at a rate almost four times as high as white women. African Americans in my district are also highly impacted by HIV/AIDS.

I commend Tibotec Therapeutics, Johnson & Johnson, and all researchers and companies actively engaged in diversifying their clinical trials and creating new relationships with

affected communities. As Congress moves forward with health reform, with outcome and effectiveness-based reimbursement models, we must strongly encourage the expansion of efforts industry and academia are making to reflect the diversity of our nation in their workforce and clinical trials.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would have voted on September 15, 2009 when I was unavoidably detained as follows:

Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 702.

GOVERNORS OF NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, NEVADA, AND RHODE ISLAND EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters from the governors of Nebraska, North Dakota, Nevada and Rhode Island:

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009.

Hon. BENJAMIN NELSON,
U.S. Senator, Hart Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE JOHANNIS,
U.S. Senator, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR NELSON AND SENATOR JOHANNIS: I am writing to alert you that the analysis provided by the staff to the members of the NGA Health Care Reform Task Force indicates that the Chairman's Mark released by Senator Baucus this morning contains a new unfunded Medicaid mandate. Earlier this year I wrote both of you expressing my concern that this might occur as part of health care reform.

I greatly appreciate the fact that both of you have repeatedly expressed concerns about the negative impact that health care reform could have on the Federal deficit and the State budget. As former Governors you understand the impact that Medicaid has on state spending. This new unfunded federal Medicaid mandate could result in higher taxes on Nebraskans or in cutting state aid to Nebraska's school districts as well as state appropriations to our universities, state colleges and community colleges. This proposal is not in Nebraska's best interests.

As we develop more specific information, I will be providing you with our best estimates of the magnitude of the impact on Nebraska. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

DAVE HEINEMAN,
Governor, Nebraska.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS,
Secretary of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SEBELIUS: As Congress and the Administration work through the various versions of health care reform currently moving through the legislative process, we ask that you carefully consider the following issues.

First, having served as chief executive of a state yourself, I am sure you are mindful of the growing concern among the nation's governors about the risk to states of including unfunded mandates in national healthcare legislation. States are constitutionally mandated to balance their budgets, which means that any shortfalls caused by unfunded federal mandates could force increases in taxes, a reduction in services or both. This potential is especially troubling at a time when states are financially struggling.

We cannot be certain what form evolving legislation will take, and what the impact of that final legislation will be on state budgets. For that reason, we, along with the National Governors Association, urge extreme caution in moving forward with any plan that would commit the states, without their express participation and consent, to obligations that may financially bind them for decades into the future.

Second, it is important that any healthcare reform plan passed by Congress and signed by the President reward the states for good Medicare and Medicaid outcomes. North Dakota health care providers, for example, consistently provide low-cost, high-quality healthcare, yet have the lowest reimbursement rates in the nation. Any reform of the system must have incentives for good performance and cost-effectiveness.

Notwithstanding these issues, like Americans everywhere, we too are concerned about rising healthcare costs and the need to provide access to affordable, high-quality healthcare for our citizens. Congress and the Administration should be looking at a range of reforms that can deliver meaningful and almost immediate benefits for our healthcare system. These include measures, among others, like tort reform for medical liability; tax credits to help make insurance more affordable; providing transparency in billing; ensuring healthcare insurance portability; and limiting denials for preexisting conditions.

Clearly, healthcare reform is needed. On that matter there is no disagreement, but it needs to be done right. To that end, I do hope that you will keep in mind OUR concerns and recommendations as you consider proposals to improve America's healthcare system.

Sincerely,

JOHN HOEVEN,
Governor, North Dakota.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2009.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: It has been clear from the early days of the 111th Congress that health insurance reform will be a top priority for lawmakers this year. Comprehensive reform should lower health care costs while increasing insured populations, quality of care, and point-of service accessibility for all Nevadans.

One common thread appears throughout recent legislative proposals: the expansion of Medicaid as a central "reform" component. Simply put, the expansion of existing healthcare programs is not authentic reform and further, places the cost burden to the states at a time when states can ill afford it.

It is essential that Congress take the time to examine all possible options for health insurance reform in order to find sustainable long-term solutions. Lowering healthcare costs and reforming the healthcare system is possible without unfunded mandates or Medicaid expansions forced on the states. While certain changes to the current Medicaid program could advance the overall function of health insurance reform, expansion of the program without a permanent funding mechanism is not something that any state can support, nor is it a viable solution.

As you know, unlike the United States Constitution, most state constitutions require a balanced budget, including Nevada. In Nevada, we will spend nearly \$907,000,000 for Medicaid programs in Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. This accounts for 13.8 percent of our General Fund budget. Any further expansion of this program would be another great example of Washington playing budget games by passing on costs to the state—this is unrealistic in the current economy and as a long term resolution.

Additional expansions of the Medicaid program will force Nevada into deep cuts in other programs and services which are not federally mandated in order to balance our General Fund. In the current fiscal year gaming revenues are down 12.5 percent, and sales tax revenues are down 20 percent. By overriding my veto, the 2009 Nevada Legislature passed substantial tax increases to burden our already beleaguered citizens.

Many current proposals also include significant cuts to the Medicare program. Nevada's growing senior population is frightened by the proposed \$162,200,000 reductions which will impact an estimated 11,000,000 seniors. Harmful and arbitrary cuts to Medicare Advantage may result in plans dropping out of the program, limiting beneficiary choice, and causing millions of seniors to lose their current coverage. These proposals must be stopped.

Nevadans cannot afford more taxes. Now is not the time to place unfunded Medicaid or other mandates on the states. By expanding Medicaid programs, the United States Congress will be forcing the State of Nevada into deep budget cuts in other state programs. I do not believe that any child's education should be placed on the chopping block to fund these new programs, but we will face that dilemma if these proposals of the Democratic Congress are enacted.

Health insurance reform should be addressed in a cooperative manner by both the federal and state governments. If states are treated as partners—not pawns—we can work to enact important reforms in concert with federal efforts. State-enacted caps on medical malpractice lawsuits, for example, would have a transformative impact on the health care and health insurance industry in each state, cutting costs for consumers without negatively affecting the stability of our current health care industry.

I am ready to work with my fellow Governors and the U.S. Congress in order to support sensible, accountable, and workable health insurance reform that helps, not hurts, Nevadans.

Sincerely,

JIM GIBBONS,
Governor, Nevada.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009.

Hon. JACK REED,
Senator, U.S. Senate, Hart Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REED: I appreciate your work and that of your colleagues in the Congress to craft legislation to reform the health care system in America. As you know, Rhode Island took on reform last year, albeit on a smaller scale, as we developed and pursued approval of our groundbreaking Global Consumer Choice Waiver.

One of the primary reasons the State pursued the Global Waiver is that federal Medicaid rules often limit the ability of the states to adapt to fiscal realities and the complex and changing needs of beneficiaries. It is difficult to deliver vital services to the beneficiaries and be fair to all taxpayers when the federal government denies us the flexibility to effectively structure and manage a program representing such a significant financial investment.

I am extremely concerned that several of the health reform initiatives recently introduced in Congress will prevent Rhode Island from fulfilling the Global Waiver's promise. Such initiatives will further strain the state's budget at a time of great fiscal uncertainty and impose even more debt on our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Therefore, I ask for your support and that of all members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation, to preserve the innovative health care initiatives now under way in Rhode Island and in many other states. I ask that you reject any reform proposals that impose additional financial burdens on the states and the people and communities we serve or that otherwise limit our capacity to meet our constituents' needs.

As originally proposed, the Senate Finance bill required a significant portion of the costs for covering the uninsured through Medicaid to be paid by lower and middle income taxpayers and the states. I am aware that changes in the proposed legislation provide, at least temporarily, additional funding for the required Medicaid expansions to "high need" states like Rhode Island. However, full federal funding will only be available for a limited period and would cease at the very time population projections estimate we will begin to see a surge in Medicaid eligibility for elders. It is unclear how the state or federal government will be able to sustain these Medicaid expansions in light of these projections and at a time of decreasing revenues and sky-rocketing deficits. The House legislation imposes burdens on state budgets and working Americans that are unacceptable.

Likewise, there still remain Medicaid eligibility and coverage mandates that will limit the flexibility of the states to operate financially sound, sustainable programs. Moreover, ongoing health reform efforts, such as those now under way in Rhode Island, may be hampered as limited administrative resources are diverted to finance the mandated expansions. Federal oversight of the Medicaid program should be streamlined, and allow for far greater innovation at the state level.

As a Governor, I am particularly concerned about the prospect of additional "short-term funded" federal Medicaid mandates. The Medicaid program itself is expensive, provider-centered, inefficient, slow to innovate and, as such, ultimately unsustainable. For these reasons, the Medicaid program is hardly the best and by no means the most appropriate platform for expanding health coverage to tens-of-thousands of additional Rhode Islanders and millions of other Americans.

I hope you will ensure that any legislation enacted by Congress does not include additional mandates on states, or at the very least compensates states fully for those it does impose, including the administrative costs associated with expansion. Additionally, providing states with the flexibility they need to implement the relevant provisions of reform should be a top priority today and in the future.

There are better ways to reform America's health care system, and I hope that President Obama and Congress will work with Governors, providers, consumers and others to bring about sensible reforms that increase quality, contain costs and ensure portability of health care.

Sincerely,

DONALD L. CARCIERI,
Governor, Rhode Island.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3183, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Programs funded under this legislation range from nuclear weapons and nonproliferation capabilities to basic research on current and next generation energy sources and distribution technologies. I am pleased that the conference agreement before us today reflects a strong commitment to our nation's needs in these areas.

I believe that nuclear proliferation is the single greatest threat to global peace and security. The United States should be leading efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons and secure loose or inadequately safeguarded nuclear material. That is why I am very pleased that the conference agreement increases our investment in nonproliferation programs to \$2.1 billion, including a 43 percent increase in funding for International Nuclear Material Protection and Cooperation. These funds will improve our ability to stop illicit nuclear trafficking and prevent terrorists from gaining access to unsecured nuclear material around the world. Equally important is the fact this agreement exceeds the budget request for weapons dismantlement and disposition, reflecting a dedication to reduced U.S. nuclear weapon stockpiles.

The conference agreement also maintains significant investments in Department of Energy research and development programs that are critical to placing our nation on a path toward a sustainable energy future. The support for energy efficiency and renewable energy research in this legislation will help us develop new, less expensive ways to produce and use energy. Funding for electricity delivery and reliability will allow us to begin modernizing and securing our aging electrical grid against internal and external threats. The \$4.9 billion in funding for the Office of Science will support the basic research that will be the foundation of tomorrow's transformative discoveries and innovations. I appreciate the \$426 million investment for fusion energy sciences included

in the conference agreement, and I hope we will continue to strengthen this and other basic and applied energy programs in the coming years.

Finally, I applaud the conference agreement for upholding the funding goals of the America COMPETES Act—an important step toward restoring the rightful place of science in our nation. Yet we should not underestimate the size or scope of the challenges posed by climate change and energy security. As we consider future legislation, the twin goals of a clean energy future and a robust economy will require a firm dedication to providing our scientists and engineers the resources they need to initiate genuinely transformative changes in our energy sector.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on earmarks, I secured the following earmarks in the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2997:

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LoBIONDO (NJ-02)

Bill Number: H.R. 2997 (Conference Report)

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture—SRG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Rutgers University Marucci Center for Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension

Address of Requesting Entity: 125A Oswego Road, Chatsworth, NJ 08019

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$550,000 for the Cranberry/Blueberry Disease Project for research on breeding and pest management to provide continued support for the \$50 million a year industry. Past research has found bacterial anti-adherence mechanisms helping to fight urinary tract infection and dental caries, and other antioxidant properties. A major effort within the breeding program aims to enhance these health beneficial properties.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LoBIONDO (NJ-02)

Bill Number: H.R. 2997 (Conference Report)

Account: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Salaries and Expenses

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: State of New Jersey, Department of Agriculture

Address of Requesting Entity: 369 S. Warren Street, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$500,000 for the New Jersey Gypsy Moth Pest Management Program to support and enhance gypsy moth control on effected communities and public lands. Funds will be used to cost share aerial treatments borne by local municipalities; for outreach in developing a web-based interactive online map showing the distribution of the gypsy moth in New Jersey and proposed treatment areas; and for technical support for salaries for field scouts and vehicle operation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall vote No. 753 (on motion to authorize conferees to close conference on H.R. 2647), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 754 (on motion to instruct conferees to H.R. 2647), “aye” on rollcall vote No. 755 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 707).

GOVERNORS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TEXAS EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on State budgets over the next 10 years. In addition, these proposals would expand the Federal Government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff States' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the record the following letters from the governors of South Carolina and Texas:

SEPTEMBER 11, 2009.

Hon. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LINDSEY: Thank you for the work you do on behalf of this country and our state.

With this work in mind I write to respectfully layout some concerns our administration has with regard to proposed health care changes in Washington. I am not writing to second guess your work, or that of Congress, but just to give you the vantage point from the seat I hold—and the consequent implications for taxpayers of this state given the proposed changes' impact in Medicaid administered by our state.

Like many governors across the nation, our administration is growing increasingly concerned about the financial strain rising health care costs are putting on South Carolina's annual budget. During the National Governors Association meeting in July, many governors joined together in a bipartisan effort to formally oppose the current Congressional health care proposals by issuing a policy opposing unfunded mandates. If these so-called reform proposals move forward, almost all states will have to raise taxes to manage this health care expansion. In South Carolina, Medicaid already receives up to \$880 million annually—16 percent of our budget.

The current House and Senate proposals would expand Medicaid and pass health care costs down to the states. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus said that it would be impossible for the federal government to pick up all of the costs for new Medicaid recipients and that states would have to bear additional costs. To help put this matter into perspective, when the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage expires at the end of 2010, South Carolina will be spending \$1.2 billion, or more than 20 percent of our state budget, on Medicaid annually. That total represents just one-third of the total Medicaid dollars spent in our state—not counting the costs associated with the proposed changes to our health care system.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates H.R. 3200 will cost in excess of \$1 trillion over the next ten years. However, the fine print reveals that the true cost would be much higher. The legislation relies on a large tax increase, which is implemented four years before most of the program's spending is ramped up. This delay in implementation is nothing more than a budget trick masking the true cost of the proposal. Even under the CBO projection, H.R. 3200 would add more than \$200 billion to the budget deficit in the next 10 years.

This projection is predicated on \$219 billion in spending changes that may be an illusion. A strong indicator that suggests that these savings will not materialize is found in a further analysis of the CBO study by Ways and Means Committee staff, which shows that the total price tag will reach \$2 trillion by 2024, including roughly \$600 billion in deficit spending. These are the significant costs you are contending with at the federal level in times of \$2 trillion deficits.

According to the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), Medicaid expenses nationally will reach \$523 billion by 2013—a 56 percent increase in just six years. The proposed changes to the program would increase Medicaid spending by \$450 million in South Carolina—more than half of what we already spend on Medicaid. With that significant an increase, South Carolina would be forced to either raise taxes or cut critical services in education and public safety, the two other large spending items in our budget.

Any state tax increase would be in addition to the proposed federal tax increases included in the House and Senate bills, like huge tax increases in the form of an additional 8 percent payroll tax or a 5.4 percent income tax surcharge on small businesses. Even in prosperous times, we would not support the incredible burden of this unfunded mandate, but in the current global economy, that impact would be disastrous for our state.

The proposal being discussed in the United States Senate has similar problems for South Carolina as, by 2015, this proposal would add more than 400,000 South Carolinians to the Medicaid program. The federal government would cover increased funding only until 2015. After 2015, South Carolina must start picking up the tab. By 2020, South Carolina would be forced to come up with an additional nearly \$900 million annually for the increased number of Medicaid enrollees. Federal programs will grow at South Carolina's expense, and will increase Medicaid costs in our state by 50 percent.

Lastly, if we are trying to make health care more affordable, why exclude tort reform and national insurance markets from the plan? Litigation, and its negative impact on the practice of medicine, significantly increases the cost of health care in this state. South Carolina passed comprehensive tort reform legislation in 2004, partially to stop

lawsuit abuse in medical liability cases. Subsequently, medical liability insurance costs are down 42 percent, and doctors have received an average rebate of 20 percent of their annual paid premium. The number of lawsuits against South Carolina doctors fell almost 90 percent one year after tort reform went into effect. Doctors have stopped leaving the state and no longer limit their practices to avoid lawsuit abuse.

Likewise, eliminating the interstate purchasing restrictions for insurance would create a bigger market for insurance, thereby giving consumers more options and driving down the price. A national market for health or life insurance means that South Carolinians can purchase whichever policy best fits their needs—whether the policy is from South Carolina, New York or California.

With all the issues surrounding a government-run health care system, I wanted to bring to your attention the increased taxes that South Carolinians might shoulder on top of the federal tax increases in the proposed bills.

Everybody agrees that there should be reforms to our health care system, but it should be done thoughtfully. I look forward to working with you on this and other issues.

Sincerely,

MARK SANFORD,
Governor, South Carolina.

JUNE 5, 2009.

Hon. JOE L. BARTON,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BARTON: As Congress continues to grapple with the daunting challenge of enacting significant health care reform measures before the August recess, I urge you to contemplate the effects of certain policy considerations on our great state.

Government-run health care is not the solution to fix a broken health care system, and is financially unsustainable. At today's costs, extending Medicaid benefits to uninsured citizens at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level would cost Texas an additional \$4.6 billion in general revenue per year (equal to a 2.3 cent, or 27 percent, sales tax increase), on top of the \$19 billion in general revenue the state expects to spend on Medicaid in the 2010–11 biennium. This type of federal government spending mandate would erode the state's economic viability without containing health care costs or improving health care quality and access.

Health and human services general revenue spending in Texas for the 2010–11 biennium is projected to grow almost 13 percent, to \$25.3 billion. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission already projects a Medicaid-related shortfall of more than \$1 billion in general revenue in the coming biennium, and combined Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program caseloads will exceed 3 million people. The number of uninsured Texans also continues to grow, and the state continues efforts to address a critical primary care physician shortage in many areas of the state.

In 2007, I set forth a comprehensive plan to transform health care in Texas. This reform waiver has been languishing before the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for more than a year. My plan would provide more people with insurance, reduce expensive emergency room visits for basic care, and make it easier for the working poor to buy into employer-sponsored insurance. I am pleased to note that many of the policy proposals in this waiver are surfacing in Congressional discussions on health care reform, including programs that emphasize quality preventive care and reforms that promote a robust, competitive private insurance market centered on consumer choice and affordability.

The Texas waiver proposal reflected strong bipartisan acknowledgement of the need for reform. Improving quality of care, controlling escalating health care costs and addressing access-to-care issues requires collaboration among federal, state and local governments. A one-size-fits-all federal government mandate will not achieve significant reform. Rather, allowing states and local governments the flexibility to restructure the way health care is financed and delivered is critical to significant reform.

Texas just concluded its 81st Legislative Session, which was marked by the passage of a biennial state budget with less than 1 percent growth in general revenue spending, leaving intact the state's Rainy Day Fund, which will provide an expected balance of \$9.1 billion to address future state needs. However, despite the many legislative accomplishments that will continue to position Texas as an economic leader in this country, the state faces significant financial burdens ahead due to rapidly increasing Medicaid caseload and health care cost growth.

I urge you to ensure that the momentum surrounding the current health care reform debate is informed by the effect on Texas in a way that protects state flexibility and innovation while guarding against growing federally mandated programs that will be financially unsustainable, not only for Texas, but for most other states and the federal government, as well. No government has ever taxed, or borrowed, its way to prosperity, no matter how laudable the spending goal may have been. I hope you will resist the temptation to finance an item as basic as health care with deficit financing that cannot be maintained.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY,
Governor, Texas.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2009.

Hon. MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BAUCUS: Last week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he was concerned that the health care legislation you have proposed will expand the Nevada Medicaid population beyond what his state can afford. Speaking as governor of a state with a significantly larger caseload than Nevada—a caseload that could double under your proposed Senate Finance plan—let me respectfully say I am troubled by the financial impact on Texas taxpayers and our budget.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission estimates that the various federal health care proposals circulating around Congress could add as much as \$60 billion to the state budget over the next 10 years, creating twice the number of Texas Medicaid recipients.

Additionally, these bills place a new tax burden on certain businesses and provide for the federal takeover of some current state insurance functions. These one-size-fits-all government mandates are both unsustainable and unable to fix our broken health care system.

Instead of government mandates and more deficit spending, successful health care reforms can only be achieved by providing states with the flexibility to develop state-specific solutions.

For example, in 2003, I signed into law medical liability reform that has improved access to medical care in Texas, particularly in underserved areas. Prior to these reforms, Texas doctors were being sued at twice the national average, and many were giving up practicing in Texas altogether. Today, doctors are coming to Texas as fast as they can, with record numbers applying to practice

medicine in the Lone Star State. Tort reform is the sort of state-specific, market-driven reform measure that will help provide effective, affordable solutions to our health care woes.

In addition, as you may know, last month, I wrote to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to again urge approval of the Texas Medicaid reform waiver, which was originally submitted in April 2008. This waiver—which would promote preventive care, improve quality and access to care, and enable more low-income working Texans to purchase private health insurance—continues to languish at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

I urge you to support our right, as a state, to further explore these approaches, rather than forcing us to implement federal mandates that promise financial hardships for the states and little in the way of benefits for our economy and all of our constituents.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY,
Governor, Texas.

HONORING THE STUDENTS AND STAFF OF DEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I commend your hard work and dedication in the pursuit of academic excellence. Through your efforts, you have garnered the prestigious honor of being named a National Blue Ribbon School by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, the highest distinction a school in the United States can achieve.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established in 1982 by Secretary of Education Terrell Bell. The program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate academic superiority or dramatic gains in student achievement. Only 3.9 percent of all schools in the United States have received this award.

As your Member of Congress, I am proud of your ambition and inspired by your success. I have always believed that our future prosperity is predicated on our present commitment to education. You are lighting the way as a beacon for those not only in our district, but also in our nation. I applaud you for your efforts and encourage you to keep up the excellent work.

IN HONOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARTICIPANTS OF "PEDAL FOR PEACE" OCTOBER 7, 2009

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the Santa Cruz County Participants of "Follow the Women—Pedal for Peace". This year's participants are Jane DeJarnette, Janet Fogel, Lilly Ann Popken, JoAnn Smith, Marilyn Marzell, and Elizabeth Schwartz. The objective of the ride is to raise awareness of violence in the Middle East and its affects on women and children, who suffer the most as a result of the

conflict. The women from Santa Cruz County will be joining women from 40 other countries.

Created in 2004, the "Follow The Women" annual bicycle ride is the brainchild of 2001 European Woman of the Year and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Detta Regan. In April 2004, she gathered together 270 women from all over the world, including the United States, Palestine, Britain and Iraq, to bike across Lebanon, Syria and Jordan to campaign for peace and an end to violence in the region. Traditionally throughout the Middle East, women do not ride bicycles making the "Follow the Women—Pedal for Peace" ride extraordinary. It brings much attention to the worthy cause of promoting good relations between different cultures and ethnicities.

"Follow the Women" has held several different events in addition to the annual bike ride. In 2007, they distributed medical kits in Gaza throughout the conflict. That year, they also held a youth exchange to explore and share the experiences between different cultures. The participants gained a better understanding of themselves and others.

"Follow the Women" has also helped fund a counseling project in Ramallah. The aim of this project was to offer support to children and their families who were suffering following the conflict in the Middle East. This year, "Follow the Women—Pedal for Peace" hopes to raise enough funds to build a playground or possibly two for the children of Gaza.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Follow the Women and especially wish to recognize the riders from Santa Cruz. I wish them much luck in their annual bike ride.

REMEMBERING JACK ALLEN STONE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jack Allen Stone. Sadly, Jack passed away on July 28, 2009 in Bay City, Michigan. I have known Jack since the early 1960s and will deeply miss him.

Jack Stone moved to Michigan from Missouri in 1930. He was the Class President at Beecher High School when he graduated in 1944 and this began his dual interests in education and politics. He joined the U.S. Army and served as a Corporal E4 during the Korean War. Returning to Flint, Jack worked for Chevrolet and became a committeeman for the UAW. During this time he married, had three daughters and attended the University of Michigan-Flint. He graduated with a B.A. degree in 1961 and began teaching that same year.

Teaching US Government and Michigan History at Grand Blanc High School for 27 years, Jack was a moving force in starting the Grand Blanc chapter of the National Honor Society. During this time he also was active with negotiating teacher contracts. He negotiated the first teacher contract with Grand Blanc Schools and played a major role in negotiating contracts for many years. He was an advisor for MEA PAC and sat on the interview board for school board candidates. Active in the Genesee County Democratic Party, Jack worked on my first campaign and successive

campaigns. He also helped elect Senator Don Reigle and State of Michigan Speaker of the House Bobby Crim.

After retiring in 1988, Jack moved to Gladwin, Michigan and built his dream home on Sugar Springs Lake. He is survived by his wife Joan, and his daughters: Janine Wallace, Rebecca Tereau and Leslie Stone.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of a dear friend, Jack Allen Stone. Over the years I have respected his wisdom, enjoyed his friendship, heeded his advice and I am saddened by his passing.

RESOLUTION TO HONOR OUR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution supporting October 2009 as National Principals Month. This designation will honor and recognize the critical role that school principals play in the lives of our students.

One of the principle reasons behind a school's success is often a strong principal.

Elementary, middle and high school principals consistently provide the vision, dedication, and mobilizing force behind successful schools.

Principals set the academic tone for their schools and work collaboratively with teachers to develop performance goals and objectives, all in an effort to improve student achievement.

Today's principals are expected to fill a variety of roles, each complex in its own right.

On any given day, they are likely to be everything from educational visionary, to community builder, to budget analyst, to facility manager, to counselor.

This means that principals often work long hours. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that one in three principals works more than 40 hours per week and often works additional time supervising school activities at night and on weekends.

During my time on the San Diego School Board, I worked with many of these remarkable individuals. I witnessed how their commitment and energy can inspire an entire school—from the youngest student to the most senior teacher.

In the end, it is principals who are responsible for creating and managing the environment where our students learn and grow.

This month, let's honor this important role, which they dedicate themselves to year-round.

I am pleased to introduce this bipartisan resolution with my colleague from the Education and Labor Committee, Congressman TODD PLATTS.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "WATER TRANSFER FACILITATION ACT OF 2009"

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, today with Congressman COSTA, I introduced the "Water

Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009." the measure should reduce unnecessary delays in water transfers at a time when Central Valley farmers have been hard hit by a three-year drought. It would allow new water transfers of roughly 250,000 to 300,000 acre-feet of water per year. The bill would grant authority to the Bureau of Reclamation to approve voluntary water transfers between sellers and buyers in the San Joaquin Valley. The measure also would streamline environmental reviews for Central Valley water transfers by ensuring that they occur on a programmatic basis, instead of the current project-by-project basis.

Transferring water between and within counties for water districts is a critical tool during periods of drought. While the best solution would be to fully operate the federal and state pumps, this change in the law provides us some relief. This legislation makes permanent the ability to transfer water to our Valley's farms when it is most needed, therefore, allowing our farmers a lifeline to continue to grow crops and help our local economy. More will need to be done to protect the Valley's water, and I will continue that fight.

The bill is supported by a great number of water users across the Central Valley, including the following: Friant Water Users Authority, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority, Delta-Mendota Canal Authority, Westlands Water District, Metropolitan Water District, Glen Colusa Irrigation District, Northern California Water Association, Banta-Carbena Irrigation District, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Association of California Water Agencies, Placer County Water Agency, Conaway Preservation Group, and the Reclamation District 2035.

I have submitted several of these support letters here for the record, and I understand that Mr. COSTA will submit additional letters as well.

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
WATER AGENCIES,
October 6, 2009.

Re ACWA support for Water Transfer Legislation.

Representative CARDOZA,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Representative COSTA,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES CARDOZA AND COSTA: Thank you for introducing water transfer legislation for the Central Valley Project (CVP) which ACWA is pleased to support. As California's water supply challenges multiply, this legislation can provide greater flexibility for management of CVP water supplies. As you know, ACWA's 450 public agency members are collectively responsible for 90 percent of the water delivered in California for residential and agricultural uses.

California's water supply situation is dire and worsening. Three years of below average precipitation along with heavy regulatory restrictions through the ESA and Biological Opinions, have seriously diminished California's water supplies. Under these conditions, it is essential that short term actions, such as provided by your legislation to flexibly enable water supplies to move across the San Joaquin Valley, be pursued.

Again, thank you for introducing water transfer legislation. ACWA looks forward to working with you to secure its passage in an expedited manner.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY QUINN,
Executive Director.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
WATER ASSOCIATION,
Sacramento, CA, October 2, 2009.

Re Support for Water Transfer Legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility in the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) and other water supplies to help meet unmet needs critical to the future of the State of California.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP.

NCWA was formed in 1992 to present a unified voice working to resolve California's water issues and protect the water rights and supplies of the diverse Northern California region, now and into the future. NCWA represents 54 agricultural water districts and agencies, private water companies, and individual water rights holders with rights and entitlements to the surface waters and groundwater resources of the Sacramento Valley. Many of our members can and will actively participate in this water transfer program. The language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to implement the necessary long-term environmental processes addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake will be imperative to its usefulness and success.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

DONN ZEA,
President and CEO.

TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY,
Willows, CA, October 5, 2009.

Re Support for Water Transfer Legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a programmatic program to promote and manage water transfers in California, including the Sacramento Valley. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater regulatory certainty for the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies for water users.

As you are aware, the TCCA is intimately aware of the impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of below average precipitation and regulatory requirements placed upon the CVP and its water users through the requirements established by the recent National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions for endangered

salmon. Your legislation will provide much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP.

Many of our members have participated in water transfer programs in the past and would continue under this legislation in a more flexible manner. Also, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to implement the necessary long-term environmental processes addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake will be imperative to its usefulness and success.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY SUTTON,
General Manager.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
Los Angeles, CA, October 5, 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is pleased to support the legislation you are introducing related to water transfers for the Central Valley Project (CVP). This legislation will help provide good water management while providing flexibility for CVP customers.

As a regional wholesale water provider, Metropolitan provides water for nearly 19 million people throughout our six-county service area in Southern California. As Metropolitan and the entire state continue to address water supply challenges throughout California, the vitality of our economy and environment has been seriously affected. Your proposed legislation will help address these critically important issues.

Please let me know if we can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY KIGHTLINGER,
General Manager.

GOVERNOR OF UTAH EXPRESSES CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letter from the governor of Utah:

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009.

DEAR SENATOR BENNETT, as Governor of the State of Utah, I am aware of the critical

importance of health system reform in our country. However, I believe the best place for innovation and policy change is in the individual states, as we have a greater understanding of the specific needs of our citizens. This effort is already underway in Utah, with great success. I am worried, however, that the direction of the current language of federal health system reform bills will preclude state-directed reform and place a detrimental burden on states' budgets. Therefore, I am contacting you in order to forge a partnership to enact reform that will benefit not only the citizens of Utah, but will benefit everyone throughout our great country.

In Utah, we have a good system of public medical programs that provide for our neediest population. However, the weight of the current programs strains our state budget. So far, we have managed to fully fund the existing programs, although it becomes more challenging each year. The extension of Medicaid to additional populations, as discussed in proposed federal healthcare legislation, will amount to an unfunded mandate that would create financial havoc for our state.

While I understand the idea that everyone must "share in the pain," and appreciate the Administration's commitment to reforming healthcare without increasing the size of the federal deficit, to force Medicaid cost increases onto states will simply shift massive cost increases to the states. As I am sure you know, Utah, like most other states, is suffering from the negative impacts of a nationwide recession. As we prepare the state's fiscal year 2011 budget, we face continued cuts to agency budgets and reduced government services on top of painful reductions made last year. The unfunded mandate of a forced Medicaid expansion will only exacerbate an already dire situation. If required to increase our Medicaid program as envisioned in Washington, Utah, and most every other state, will be forced to find the money to do so through other means. This will require states to either raise taxes or continue to cut budgets in areas currently suffering from a lack of funding, such as public and higher education. We must work together to ensure that no new requirements for states to fund health care for additional populations pass.

This does not mean, however, that the State is ignoring or has forgotten about middle-income uninsured families in Utah. Quite the contrary, the aggressive health system reform being pursued in Utah is designed to address the healthcare needs of those families in a manner that does not shift additional burden to the State.

As mentioned above, Utah has made remarkable progress toward health system reform. One of the cornerstones of our State's efforts is the introduction of a defined contribution health benefit system and implementation of the Utah Health Exchange, which provides the technology to make that market work. This new market approach is proving to be very popular. In fact, in just nine days, following the official launch of the Utah Health Exchange, 136 of Utah's small businesses signed up to contribute to health care coverage for their employees, representing approximately 7,000 covered lives.

It is essential that federal legislation not derail this promising effort to provide insurance in a new way to Utah's small business employees, who are the backbone of our economy. When fully implemented, the Exchange will help individuals and employees access the information they need to make informed choices about their health and health care, as well as their health insurance. This tool has a standardized application process and allows people to apply for a broad range of coverage electronically; which further increases access to affordable coverage.

To me, the highlight of the Exchange is that it is almost entirely run by the private sector. The State brought together a technology company, a finance company, and many different insurers who have worked out the necessary details to provide a platform for this new marketplace. We were able to go from a signed bill to a functioning exchange in just five months. This is the very definition of forging unprecedented partnerships to find solutions that government alone cannot provide. The driving force behind any proposed exchange must continue to be private sector ingenuity, with government assisting in the appropriate ways.

I look forward to working with you in a similar manner to ensure that federal and state healthcare reforms are compatible and will result in success for the citizens of our great State. I believe that together we can develop workable alternatives to the traditional Washington D.C. "one-size-fits-all" solution. We must continue to recognize that states are the laboratories of innovation and that the best solution to our nation's challenges is to empower states to serve their unique populations in the best ways possible.

Please contact me if there is any way I can be of assistance with this very important issue.

Best Regards,

GARY R. HERBERT,
Governor, Utah.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
ZACHARY J. RHYNER, USO AIR-
MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Staff Sergeant Zachary J. Rhyner's distinguished service in the United States Air Force, and to congratulate him on being named USO Airman of the Year. Staff Sergeant Rhyner's extraordinary heroism in Shok Valley, Afghanistan on April 6, 2008 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom is a testament to his training, character, and personal strength.

While conducting an air assault infiltration as Special Tactics Combat Controller, Sergeant Rhyner and his team were caught in an ambush. Intense sniper, machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire rained down on the team from a well-trained insurgent force. Sergeant Rhyner was shot once in his left leg and struck twice in his chest. Although wounded, Sergeant Rhyner stayed calm and called in more than 50 air strikes and strafing gun runs. He placed himself between enemy forces and his men several times in order to return fire and to allow his teammates to retrieve the critically wounded and the deceased. He has been recognized for his heroism several times. In addition to being named USO Airman of the Year today, he received the Air Force Cross, the service's second highest medal for valor, on March 10, 2009. He also received a Purple Heart and the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs Grateful Nation Award.

Staff Sergeant Rhyner is based at Pope Air Force Base, in North Carolina's Second District and lives in Harnett County, my home county. I am proud to have him as a fellow North Carolinian, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this honor and saluting his service.

HONORING SENATOR EDWARD
KENNEDY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Edward Kennedy, who passed away August 25, 2009, at age 77. A leader in the Senate for over 46 years, Senator Kennedy dedicated his career to equality and justice for all.

Senator Kennedy believed that the fight for quality and affordable healthcare was the cause of his life and nothing less than a moral obligation for us all. His courageous commitment to improving the welfare of all people was inspirational to me and millions of Americans. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, he influenced nearly every piece of legislation that came before the Senate. Because of his deep concern for the treatment of mental health patients, he helped individuals suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders receive adequate coverage and prompted the growth of America's Community Mental Health Centers. Senator Kennedy was also committed to increasing access to health care for everyone. I wish he was with us long enough to see all his hard work come true.

Senator Kennedy was a compelling advocate for equal access to education for all children. His leadership was instrumental in expanding the Head Start Program and he devoted himself to improving teaching quality and equality across the country.

Senator Kennedy fought tirelessly to ensure all students who wished to obtain higher education were able to do so. During the 110th Congress, he helped enact the most substantial increase in student aid funding, making higher education more accessible and affordable to all.

Madam Speaker, Senator Kennedy was a shining example of what the very best public servants can aspire to become and his passion for helping others will live on through the lives he has touched. His legacy of hard work, compassion, and excellence will continue to impact America for generations to come.

HONORING ELDON ROTH

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eldon Roth, a celebrated and respected member of the agricultural community. I am privileged to be joined by the distinguished Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO in recognizing Mr. Roth. It is a remarkable day indeed when we can both wholeheartedly endorse the same objective.

Growing up in rural South Dakota, Eldon Roth learned the values of a strong work ethic and perseverance. Lacking access to electricity and running water in his home, he never allowed the limitations of sheer circumstance to hinder his pursuit for excellence. Eldon and his wife Regina, who is his business partner, started their business in San Francisco back

in the 1970s. A self-educated man who never accepted the status quo, Mr. Roth occupied his spare time by employing his understanding of mechanics to improve the efficiency of the meat freezing process.

This focus led him to working with stainless steel firms in the area to develop a large drum. His natural mechanical genius devised a way to liquefy the meat product at the lowest possible temperature. The FMI Roller Press Freezer, a huge piece of equipment, was a new concept for the continuous quick-freezing of ground meats and other similar consistency products. Through his work, the freezing process was trimmed from two days to a matter of mere minutes. It revolutionized the industry and standardized the quick-chill process that now assures high levels of food safety.

Over the years, Mr. Roth continued his innovating work and as a selfless man of integrity, he takes time to share his discoveries with other meat processors to protect consumer health. Mr. Roth has not only developed unique ways to increase the value of beef and pork, but he led a revolution in equipment design. By taking great pride in his work, Mr. Roth undoubtedly raised the bar in terms of excellence for the U.S. meat and poultry processing industry.

Today, the company Mr. Roth founded, Beef Products Inc. is the world's leading producer of boneless beef. Mr. Roth's impact in the market of beef and poultry has justly earned him multiple awards. BPI has built plants in Texas, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. He is a recipient of a 2008 Beef Industry Division award presented by the National Cattlemen's Foundation as well as the recipient of the 2007 E. Floyd Forbes Award, the highest honor from the National Meat Association.

Along with founding the world's leading producer of high-quality lean-beef trimmings, Mr. Roth made sure to give back to the local community. Last year, Mr. Roth organized an event in Sioux City, Iowa where he hosted a prime rib appreciation dinner Salute to the 185th Refueling Wing of the Iowa Air National Guard. He had about 1,500 Guardsmen with their families and guests to attend at the BPI aircraft hangar, and he and his company staff cooked hot roast beef for everyone! One of his special guests was Congressional Award winner Col. Bud Day, along with other local dignitaries.

Mr. Roth is known as a self-made man who possesses unequaled discipline, drive, and discernment. He is successfully building a legacy of generosity by giving back to the people of his own community. I am proud to stand here today, shoulder to shoulder with Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO, to honor Eldon Roth of South Dakota.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during the rollcall vote Numbers 758 to 760 on October 7, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On rollcall vote No. 758 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 759 I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 760 I would have voted "yes."

IRAN—GLOBAL THREAT REQUIRING GLOBAL ACTION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, the global threat of Iran's nuclear program is growing every day. The luxury of time has vanished and the need for Congressional action is absolute.

What we already knew about the Iranian nuclear program, compounded with the recent revelations of an additional uranium enrichment facility outside of Tehran and Iran's continued testing of long-range missiles, only continues to build on an already disturbing scenario.

The Iranian regime is furiously building its nuclear program and threatening anyone who walks the streets of Paris, Beijing, London and New York. Every day that goes by without weakening the regime or its ambitions, the world becomes less safe. We MUST act now.

I wholeheartedly support increased sanctions and divestment efforts and hope the U.S. Congress responds immediately to provide these critical tools to the President.

The United States needs to show strong leadership to show the world that we are serious in taking down this imminent threat from Iran. U.S. actions should be matched by other world leaders—especially Russia and China.

Iran's potential peril to the world is global, so too should be the response.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Conference Report accompanying H.R. 2997—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman MIKE ROGERS (AL)

Bill Number: Conference Report accompanying H.R. 2997

Account: ARS, Salaries and expenses account, \$1,293,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Address of Requesting Entity: 102 Samford Hall, Auburn, Alabama 36849

Description of Request: "Improved Crop Production Practices" Taxpayer justification—It is my understanding that this funding will provide \$1,293,000 to develop and assist in

adopting cropping systems that reduce production cost primarily by reducing the need for nitrogen fertilizer, pesticides, fuel, and equipment. Federal funding would allow the program to expand reniform nematode research throughout the State, develop more intense mature management research that includes bioenergy crops, and expand research on the development of alternative substrates for nursery crop production. Current and future profitability of agronomic based crop production in Alabama is dependent on the research and outreach efforts. Use of precision technologies associated with these studies have resulted in practices that saves fuel, herbicides, and fertilizers and protects Alabama's vital natural resources. The project's total budget is \$8,874,000. Specifically within the budget, \$1,298,734 will go toward permanent personnel salaries, \$360,760 for research expense, and \$240,500 for equipment. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Agricultural Research Service, ARS Account. Auburn University will meet or exceed all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

HONORING RODNEY B. LEWIS ON HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER—

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to praise and reflect upon the career of an outstanding attorney and community leader, Rodney B. Lewis. I would also like to congratulate Rod on recently being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Native American Bar Association of Arizona.

Rod Lewis comes from a family dedicated to serving the Native American community in Arizona. Rod is one of three sons born to the late Reverend Roe B. Lewis and Sallie Lewis. He and his brothers, John and Robert, grew up on the Gila River Indian Reservation. All three attended college and graduate school and each has devoted their careers to the service of Indian tribes and Indian people. In fact, John is the Executive Director of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona.

Rod earned his bachelor's degree from Trinity College in San Antonio, Texas. While in college, Rod participated in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and upon graduation was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Rangers, ultimately obtaining the rank of first lieutenant upon discharge from the Army. Rod earned his master's degree from Arizona State University in 1969 and went on to law school at the University of California Los Angeles. Upon graduating with his JD in 1972, Rod returned to the Gila River Indian Community to serve as the tribal attorney for the Community and to raise a family. He and his wife Willardene have three children and five grandchildren.

Rod has had an extraordinary legal career. He was the first Native American to pass the Arizona Bar Exam and be licensed to practice

law in Arizona. He was also the first Native American lawyer to argue a case before the United States Supreme Court. Shortly after law school, Rod faced an effort by the State of Arizona to tax the sale of tractors to the Gila River Indian Community farms. Rod fought this effort and prevailed in a 5 to 4 Supreme Court decision. The Central Machinery v. Arizona State Tax Commission decision continues to stand as the definitive case recognizing the right of Indian tribes to operate beyond the taxing authority of states.

Rod served as the General Counsel of the Gila River Indian Community for more than 30 years. For much of his tenure as General Counsel, Rod led the battle to secure the water rights of the Gila River Indian Community. Rod worked tirelessly in litigating and ultimately negotiating the single largest Indian water rights settlement in the history of the United States. This settlement resulted in the return of 653,000 acre-feet of water to the "River People" of the Gila River Indian Community and \$200 million to construct a system to deliver water to the reservation.

Rod Lewis has dedicated his life to being a champion for the Gila River Indian Community. He is a genuine trailblazer who has broken down barriers and served as a role model for a new generation of Native American lawyers. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Rod for his distinguished career and outstanding leadership and thank him for being my friend.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following request:

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY

Bill Number: Conference Report to H.R. 3183, FY 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The City of Solana Beach

Address of Requesting Entity: 635 South Highway 101, Solana Beach, CA, USA 92075

I received \$305,000 to complete the feasibility study for the Solana Beach-Encinitas Shoreline Protection Project. The protective beaches throughout the Solana Beach area are severely eroded, leaving residences, portions of Highway 101, and public access points susceptible to dangerous wave attack and beachgoers subject to falling rocks as bluffs are destabilized by erosion. This Shore Protection Project will build up the protective beaches along the coast, preserving public access, recreational areas, and as well as public infrastructure and private homes.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN BURDICK, RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARDS, SACRED HEART SCHOOLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Burdick, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, *The Heart of the Matter*, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

This year, Joan Burdick was chosen along with two other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for her tireless work as an educator and for her dedication to the arts, as well as to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Her award was presented by Connie Solari who gave the following speech at the Awards Ceremony in tribute to Joan:

When I was about 10 years old, I saw the movie *Auntie Mame* with Rosalind Russell. I always wanted to BE that person—elegant, spontaneous, excitable, risk-taking, generous, brunette—and above all gorgeously DRAMATIC. While I've fallen considerably short in embodying this remarkable character, I did finally meet her avatar one afternoon in the spring of 1978.

Her name was Joan Burdick.

At the time, I was writing the Sacred Heart Schools Newsletter, and I'd been assigned to interview "the drama teacher" at St. Joseph's. After about three minutes, it was clear that I was in the face of a mythic educator. Since then, I've come to know Joan as a gifted classroom teacher, an awe-inspiring director, a close professional colleague—and a friend. And it's under these frequently overlapping headings that I propose to introduce her.

MRS. BURDICK, TEACHER

When Nancy Tarantino requested nominations for this award she received pages of testimony from Joan's former students. As the mother of two of her sixth-grade English students at St. Joseph's, I can personally attest to her excellence: She's one of those teachers whose high standards bring high results, and who manage to inspire students with a belief in their ability to do things they never dreamed possible. A few years later, as Dean of Faculty, I saw her spin her magic first-hand in the high school English classroom, making William Shakespeare and Emily Bronte and Tennessee Williams come fully alive as a tea-kettle bubbled in the background and students nestled comfortably on the couches and overstuffed chairs that filled her classroom.

Several of her former students commented on her gift for transforming their shy, even withdrawn selves into polished, confident public speakers. "She taught us to walk deliberately and never fidget when speaking," wrote one. "She corrected our posture and forced us to project and enunciate, to think on our feet and improvise." One went as far as to say that it was Joan who introduced him to his "first sense of community with other students." Another credited her with evoking and developing her self-esteem and overall confidence—qualities that obviously allow everything else to fall into place.

But Joan's gifts went even beyond how to write essays on Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* or how to deliver a line of iambic pentameter like you meant it. She taught us how to behave.

Permit me an anecdote.

For several years we took the entire senior class on a five-day trip to the Ashland Shakespeare Festival. Please note that this was the ENTIRE senior class, not a self-selecting group of dramaphiles. In addition to preparing the students for what they were about to see onstage, Joan also prepared them to be a good AUDIENCE: mouths shut, bodies quiet, hats off, minds alert. One afternoon we were waiting in the lobby for our ninety students to arrive. [I believe it was the same day Michele Rench and I had bought Joan a pink volume of Emily Post's *Etiquette* in a used bookstore.] Suddenly, one very large and bumptious senior approached Joan, lowered himself onto one knee, and kissed her hand with a courtly flourish. It's a gesture I doubt he's ever repeated since, but it speaks volumes about how Joan could ignite hidden reserves of gentility within even the most unlikely knight-at-arms. I read recently that St. Madeleine Sophie believed good manners to be an expression of CARITAS; if we accept her judgment, then Joan Burdick unleashed a FLOOD of Christian Love via students who recognized, even temporarily, the value of good manners. Another former student (one I vividly remember for his livewire personality) wrote: "To this day I think I'm a better audience than most. If I make noise during a performance, I can still feel Mrs. Burdick's stern look beading into the back of my head."

JOAN HUNT BURDICK, DIRECTOR

The distinction between Joan the Teacher and Joan the Director is of course quite arbitrary, since Joan DIRECTED her English classes in much the same way she TAUGHT her aspiring actors. But let me leave the classroom now and take you all to the stage in the Little Theater—a vanished building, but one whose ghost hovers beneath the foundations of this marvelous Campbell Center. Let's imagine it's 1987. Joan has unleashed her latest brainchild—an all-campus production of *The Sound of Music*. In addition to students from grades one through twelve, she has cast teachers from both sides of campus, the Director of Development, the Director of Admissions, and—yes—none other than Director of Schools Nancy Morris as the "Climb-Every-Mountain"—crooning Mother Superior. I myself was among the many actors whom she'd recruited and given their first taste of thespian glory. One alum described the Little Theater as "a symbol of the great things that can come out of a small space occupied by a director who cultivates the imagination and talent of actors who want to do great things." We wanted to do great things. Witnessing Joan rallying us together just before the opening performance of *Sound of Music*, we were gripped by that feeling. We were going to "make theater" to-

gether and in so doing transform not only the physical space, but the audience which had come to be transported into that imaginative mental space that theater engenders. Joan understands this power of theater, and throughout her life, she has made her students (and I count myself among them) understand this. Her willingness to take risks, tackling such daunting works as Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, is grounded in her proven ability to inspire casts with a Dionysian fervor that spins itself out into the audience.

When Joan was invited back to direct the Farewell to the Little Theater show in June of 2003, the 120 cast members, including students, faculty and alums, gave Joan the longest standing ovation many ever remember witnessing. No wonder.

JOAN BURDICK, COLLEAGUE AND MASTER BUILDER

In 1990, Joan transferred full-time to the high school, and we began working closely together. In addition to teaching with her in the English department, I was privileged to watch her build not only the SHP drama program, but the entire Fine Arts department. We went from a school that offered five electives in drawing, painting, photography and drama to one that, by the time she retired in 2001, offered twenty, including sculpture, ceramics, dance, computer graphics, concert and chamber choir, instrumental music, technical theater and scenic design, video production, and the ever-amazing student-directed play.

As Fine Arts chair, she represented her department on the school Curriculum Committee with passion and precision. She nurtured her department members in the nuanced art of becoming a Sacred Heart educator. For Joan was not only an employee of Sacred Heart, she is an alumna of Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton—quite literally raised on the vision of St. Madeleine Sophie.

AND THIS BRINGS ME, FINALLY, TO JOANIE BURDICK, FRIEND—AND BY EXTENSION FAMILY WOMAN

For over 150 years, Sacred Heart educators (virtually all of them nuns) were referred to as "Mothers." Joan Burdick is nothing if not the ultimate MATRIARCH, a maternal figure not only to her family but also to her many friends. Joan enjoys deep, powerful and lasting friendships. Many of her former students and colleagues now consider her a friend, someone with whom we still enjoy having an elegant cup of tea or glass of sherry. I'd argue that we all consider ourselves part of Joan's extended family as we seek her advice or share stories with her.

With respect to her biological family, she is a matriarchal force that one crosses at one's peril. When her son-in-law Ken Thompson was diagnosed with leukemia three years ago, I had the sense that Ken would somehow be safe because Joan was standing there, a cross between a lioness and a heavily armed archangel, determined that NOTHING was going to hurt her family. Her daughters Corie and Riette and her son Hunt accorded their mother the ultimate compliment by following her into that magical world of theater themselves, scoring major successes as actors, singers, dancers, stage designers and directors. Her grandson Sean now enjoys life with a grandmother who teaches him chess, instructs him in the fine art of taking tea, and occasionally sweeps him off to Europe or New

York City, much like my Auntie Mame did for her nephew Patrick.

Let's face it. Joan Burdick is nothing if not "elegant, spontaneous, excitable, risk-taking, generous, brunette, and gorgeously dramatic." (It's only fitting that she just flew in from Paris last night to receive this award.)

She is the Queen of all Drama Queens—but one with her beautifully shod feet planted firmly on the ground of faith, family, and friendship. A Queen whose reverence for theater reminds us that Western drama evolved out of Greek religious ritual—an idea echoed by a former colleague who wrote that "Joan's productions were always, always a validation of life and meaning." I am honored to introduce Joan Burdick, whose work here for 25 years so validated life and meaning, and who so incarnates The Sacred Heart Educator at her very finest.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our congratulations to Joan Burdick on the very special Occasion of being chosen for the St. Madeleine Sophie Award and for all she does daily to strengthen our community and our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 743 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 2442), "no" on rollcall vote No. 744 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1771), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 745 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1053).

HONORING THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAGINAW COUNTY AND CASTLE MUSEUM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Historical Society of Saginaw County for being selected by the American Association of Museums for participation in the Museum Assessment Program. The Historical Society of Saginaw County operates Castle Museum in downtown Saginaw. The Society is holding its annual Membership Lumberjack Brunch and Open House on October 18th at the Museum.

The American Association of Museums conducts the Museum Assessment Program to help museums identify challenges and develop strategies to address them. The program also helps museums to ensure high standards in collections care, governance, institutional planning and effective community engagement. Over 3500 museums have benefited from this program.

The Historical Society of Saginaw County was founded in 1938 and incorporated in 1964. The Society has operated Castle Museum since 1992 and is committed to telling the continuing story of the people of the Saginaw region. The Castle Building was constructed in 1898 in the French chateau style. At that time the Federal government decided all Federal buildings were to be built to reflect the historic legacy of the community and Architect William Aitken decided to design the building to reflect the early French traders that settled in the region. Originally utilized as a Post Office, the Castle Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the cornerstone of the Historical Society's dedication to preserve Saginaw's heritage for future generations.

Today, the Castle Building serves as the Castle Museum and houses over 100,000 archeological and historical artifacts from the region. Traveling and long-term exhibits are displayed in the facility. The Historical Society of Saginaw County has utilized the building to showcase their educational programs, film presentations, and community tours. They also offer research services, an oral history recording program and a living history program at the Museum. Currently, the Historical Society is retrofitting a van to take the museum's programs to elementary schools and they are planning to launch this project in early 2010.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Board President, Margaret E. Clark, the Board members, staff, volunteers, and Society members as they are honored by the American Association of Museums and wish them continued success in preserving our history for many, many years to come.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847, the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 2997, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Agricultural Research Service, Salaries and Expenses Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Auburn University

Address of Requesting Entity: Auburn University, 102 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849

Description of Request: "Improved Crop Production Practices, AL, \$1,293,000"

Provide \$1,293,000 to develop and assist in adopting cropping systems that reduce production cost primarily by reducing the need for nitrogen fertilizer, pesticides, fuel, and equipment. Federal funding would allow the program to expand reniform nematode research throughout the state, develop more intense mature management research that includes

bioenergy crops, and expand research on the development of alternative substrates for nursery crop production. Current and future profitability of agronomic based crop production in Alabama is dependent on the research and outreach efforts. Use of precision technologies associated with these studies have resulted in practices that saves fuel, herbicides, and fertilizers and protects Alabama's vital natural resources. The project's total budget is \$1,900,000. Specifically within the budget, \$1,298,734 will go toward permanent personnel salaries, \$360,760 for research expense, and \$240,500 for equipment. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Agricultural Research Service, Salaries and Expense Account. Auburn University will meet or exceed all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding that I requested as part of the H.R. 2997, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman SPENCER BACHUS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Agricultural Research Service, Salaries and Expenses Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Auburn University

Address of Requesting Entity: 202 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849

Description of Request: Provide \$1,293,000 to develop and assist in adopting cropping systems that reduce production cost primarily by reducing the need for nitrogen fertilizer, pesticides, fuel, and equipment. Federal funding would allow the program to expand reniform nematode research throughout the state, develop more intense mature management research that includes bioenergy crops, and expand research on the development of alternative substrates for nursery crop production. Current and future profitability of agronomic based crop production in Alabama is dependent on these research and outreach efforts. Use of precision technologies associated with these studies have resulted in practices that saves fuel, herbicides, and fertilizers and protects Alabama's vital natural resources. The project's total budget is \$1,900,000. Specifically within the budget, \$1,298,740 will go toward permanent personnel salaries, \$360,760 for research expense, and \$240,500 for equipment. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Agricultural Research Service, Salaries and Expense Account. Auburn University will meet or exceed all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORKS
OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, "Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em."—William Shakespeare, "The Twelfth Night."

It is with a sense of proud sadness and deep gratitude that I am blessed to offer a few words about a man who was born to greatness, had it thrust upon him and achieved greatness—because, in the end, he was not afraid.

It is with an array of inexpressible emotions that I am blessed to call him an inspiration, mentor, and most valued friend.

To be Ted Kennedy's friend was to be wrapped in a special embrace, a golden aura of generosity and thoughtfulness, compassion and comradeship. It simply felt good to be around him.

I believe the highest praise bestowed on anyone is that he made the people around him better. This he did by calling all of us to the better angels of our nature.

It is said that to whom much is given, much is expected. No one expected more of himself than did Ted Kennedy, and no one gave more of himself to others.

No one bore greater burdens—some of them the result of cataclysmic events that damaged not only our nation, but hurt him deeply and in ways that would have paralyzed any of us.

He carried on, shouldering the future of a young and sprawling family and the continuing hopes and dreams of our nation.

In a speech in August of 1968, mere weeks after the death of his brother Bobby, Teddy said:

"There is no safety in hiding. Like my brothers before me, I pick up a fallen standard. Sustained by the memory of our priceless years together, I shall try to carry forward that special commitment to justice, excellence and courage that distinguished their lives."

We met in 1978 in San Francisco when I was little more than a laborer in the vineyards of California Democratic politics. In 1979, I joined his campaign for president and was appointed to his state steering committee.

I soon found myself involved in decisions about who to seat at the 1980 Democratic Convention and in strategic discussions about how we might win the nomination against a sitting president.

In this way, he lifted the fortunes and the sights of so many, allowing us to find new challenges, to seek out new responsibilities and to broaden our own understanding of what we could do, who we could be and how we could help him achieve an America of justice, excellence and courage.

It was at the convention, of course, that he gave what is widely regarded as his greatest single speech. The speech concluded with those words that have continued to ring out through the decades: "The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."

Conventions have become pre-packaged events with carefully staged "spontaneous"

demonstrations of affection and support. At the 1980 convention, we were outsiders, there against the wishes of an incumbent president whose strategists controlled all the machinery of convention-like hoopla.

So, for an hour, we clapped and cheered, we cried and we chanted "Kennedy, Kennedy."

In retrospect, we were enthralled not by the end of a campaign but by the promise of future fights and the certainty that our cause would go forward, as would our work on behalf of the downtrodden and the disaffected.

He said in 1985, with yet another presidential election stirring, "The pursuit of the presidency is not my life. Public service is."

He loved to be of service and he reveled in all that it meant, taking joy in those things that would have seemed small and inconsequential to him—and spreading joy.

In 1986, while serving as a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, I was elected to the position of chairman of the Board. The title was nice, but it was antiquated and was a vestige of an era when only men served in office. I asked the county counsel to take the necessary steps to change the title to president of the Board.

It became a national news story that appeared in the Wall Street Journal, an article that included the headline: "Eshoo to become president."

Teddy sent me a telegram that read: "I always wanted to be president, but I'm glad you got there first."

No one bore greater burdens—some of them self-inflicted. He faced them unflinchingly and with the hope that he would do better. In a scandal-besieged era, he was, again, an example to us of how to live in the public eye with humility, with humanity and with yet another kind of courage.

He said: "I recognize my own shortcomings—the faults in the conduct of my private life. I realize that I alone am responsible for them, and I am the one who must confront them. I believe that each of us as individuals must not only struggle to make a better world, but to make ourselves better, too."

When others would have scrambled for the safety of obscurity, he stood at the helm and sailed the storms.

He was flawed but in a way that makes his virtues stand even taller, for in our midst was a man who never thought of himself as a saint, but believed that the least among us deserve the greatest blessings this nation can bestow.

He was generous. He was thoughtful. He was passionate. He was courageous beyond measure.

And so it is fitting that his last large moment on the national stage should be filled with hope. This is how he lived his life. This is the gift he gave to us.

At his final Democratic convention, he harkened to his own past to paint an enduring vision of a better tomorrow that is uniquely Teddy:

"The work begins anew. The hope rises again. And the dream lives on."

So, we are saddened at his passing and in the knowledge we will never see his like again and that we will never be warmed by the sun in quite the same way.

But we are filled with the promise he believed and that he gave us, ready to do battle in his name and to extract a measure of joy from life, as he would do.

And we are comforted in the knowledge that he is with his family and his legions of friends and that he is at peace. May God grant this peace to Vicki, his great love, his precious children and his entire family.

As John Bunyan wrote in "Pilgrim's Progress":

"When the day that he must go hence was come, many accompanied him to the riverside, into which as he went, he said, 'Death, where is thy sting?' And as he went down deeper, he said, 'Grave, where is thy victory?' So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of recognizing the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

This special recognition started 25 years ago to highlight and raise awareness of this devastating disease.

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the U.S. other than skin cancer.

In 2009, it is estimated that in the United States there will be 192,370 new cases and 40,170 deaths from breast cancer.

Sadly, just in my District in San Bernardino County, California the breast cancer incidence was reported to be 116.6 cases per 100,000 females during the period of 2001 to 2005.

This is why we need to continue all efforts to raise awareness, not just during October but throughout the year.

As a husband, father, grandfather, and as a son—the wonderful women in my life continue to be my driving force behind trying to make a difference in this fight against breast cancer.

My efforts and passion date back to my public service in the California State Legislature.

Through the leadership of Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, I helped passed the reauthorization for the Breast Cancer Stamp, which to this date has raised over \$55 million dollars for research on breast cancer.

These efforts coupled with the month long activities of many organizations on behalf of Breast Cancer Awareness Month are necessary to ensure that all men and women across America have the tools to overcome breast cancer.

While we recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we must also keep in mind that breast cancer is prevalent in our society and any healthcare reform must address this problem.

This is why passing healthcare reform that includes a ban on denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions is extremely important.

Millions of Americans combating breast cancer must not be denied coverage based on their condition at a time when these individuals need coverage the most.

We must ensure that access to adequate testing for breast cancer and patient education is readily available.

I congratulate all individuals and organizations that will hold events this month, and urge

every American to do their part to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the citizens of the Borough of Somerville, county of Somerset, New Jersey, as they celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the incorporation of their municipality.

Although the Borough of Somerville was not incorporated until April 16, 1909, its roots lie much deeper in American history. The town of Somerville was settled in 1683 by Dutch and English immigrants as part of Bridgewater Township. The town unwaveringly aided in the fight for the independence of our Nation, including housing General George Washington from December 1778 to June 1779 while the Continental Army was stationed at Camp Middlebrook.

Until the 1840s, Somerville was a sparsely populated agricultural community. However, with the completion of the rail line in the 1840s and the development of water power in the 1850s, Somerville rapidly developed. From the abundant red clay from which Somerville was built, brick making became one of the earliest industries.

Today, Somerville is an essential hub in central New Jersey, and the seat of county government, the Somerset Board of Chosen Freeholders. Its bustling yet quaint Main Street boasts numerous boutique specialty shops and a large variety of dining options. The borough also hosts many local recreational, cultural, and historical activities, including the annual Tour of Somerville bike race, the oldest bicycle race in the United States, and both the home of the historic Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage. Somerville has truly become a premiere destination for visitors.

The Borough of Somerville continues to grow and prosper. Currently, the borough is in the process of completing a large redevelopment project to include a new shopping center, town homes, and many other amenities on the grounds of the former borough landfill. The project is centered around the Somerville train station and envisioned as a transit village redevelopment.

Madam Speaker, for 100 years, Somerville has been a center for local commerce, not only the citizens of Somerville, but for all of New Jersey. Somerville is truly a unique and special part of New Jersey, and I ask you, Madam Speaker, and my colleagues to congratulate all residents of Somerville on their special centennial celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on October 7, 2009 I missed rollcall

votes 756, 757, 758, 759 and 760. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" or "aye" on all.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY'S PIZZA
SHACK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize and honor Mary's Pizza Shack, which has been selected as the Business of the Year by the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Not only is Mary's Pizza Shack being honored by the Chamber, but the restaurant chain is celebrating its 50th year anniversary as a mainstay in Sonoma Valley.

Family matriarch, Mary Fazio, started the business in Boyes Hot Springs with a \$700 investment and pots and pans from her own kitchen. Her dream was to have a warm, family-friendly place where people could enjoy hearty portions of her family's favorite foods at reasonable prices. It was clearly a recipe for success. Today there are 18 "Shacks" in seven counties in Northern California and this third generation-run family business is branching out this year with a new fast/casual restaurant concept to compliment to original Mary's Pizza Shacks.

But Mary's is much more than a successful business model; it is an integral part of the fabric of the community.

For generations, it is been the after-game destination for every sports team in the valley, young or old. Countless victories have been celebrated there and losses have been made a little more bearable with a pepperoni pizza or two.

Since its inception, Mary's has given back to the community through its financial support of 50 community organizations each year, through its popular "Dine and Donate" nights, and its commitment to the valley's youth. As an employer, Mary's makes it a point to hire people with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, local businesses in the small communities throughout our two Congressional districts are much more than employers. They are the backbone of a support system for projects, non-profit organizations, and our youth and civic events that would not be successful without their involvement. Like many of the businesses selected by the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce as its Business of the Year, Mary's Pizza Shack exemplifies this commitment. It is therefore appropriate for us to honor Mary's Pizza Shack, the Fazio family and all of their employees, both past and present, for 50 years of dedicated service to the Sonoma Valley.

INTRODUCING H.R. _____, DRUG
PRICE COMPETITION ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Drug Price Com-

petition Act of 2009, a bill that will help achieve some of the goals that are essential to health care reform: ensuring fair market competition and increasing access to affordable drugs.

State-of-the-art drugs have undoubtedly improved and saved lives, and consumer demand for these drugs has certainly posed an economic burden on countless Americans. Although prescription drugs account for 10 percent of total health care expenditures, it is one of the fastest-growing segments within health care spending. Consumers are not the only ones who face the cost of prescription drugs. The federal government is now the largest purchaser of drugs in the United States and accounts for roughly two-fifths of the drug consumer market.

Generic drugs cost between 80–85 percent less than brand name drugs and comprise 70 percent of all drug prescriptions that are filled in the United States today. Many have acknowledged the role that generics have played in alleviating the burden of prescription drug costs on individual and government health care spending. The Hatch-Waxman Act of 1984 established a pathway for generic drugs to receive approval from the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, and enter the consumer market. However, some generic and brand name drug companies have exploited a flaw in this Act and have restricted access to generics.

Under the Hatch-Waxman Act, the first drug company that submits an application for product approval to the FDA receives a 180-day period of exclusivity in which no other generic company is allowed to enter the market. This application is also accompanied with a challenge to the brand company's drug patent. In response, brand companies often pay generic companies large sums of money to encourage them to postpone their entry into the market.

Generic drug companies frequently comply because they can retain their 180-day period of exclusivity even if they agree to enter the market years later than was first anticipated. Additionally, generic manufactures that were not the first-to-file have no incentive to challenge the brand company's patent and potentially open the blocked markets because they would not be able to enter the market until after the 180-day exclusivity period.

Madam Speaker, the Drug Price Competition Act of 2009 is a House companion to a bill that Senator BILL NELSON of Florida introduced earlier this year. The bill targets the root of the blocked drug market problem. It allows generic companies that win patent challenges to share the 180-day exclusivity period with the generic companies that first submitted an application to the FDA. However, no subsequent challenger would be eligible to share in the exclusivity reward once the generic drug has been launched.

If enacted, first-to-file generic manufactures would be less likely to accept a late entry date because this would mean that another generic manufacturer could win a patent challenge and share the 180-day exclusivity period.

Madam Speaker, generic medications are critical to managing everything from heart disease to battling life-threatening cancer. Stymied market competition and delayed access to generic medication pose serious health and economic costs to patients and taxpayers. The Drug Price Competition Act of 2009 will effectively correct the systemic flaw in the Hatch-

Waxman Act that has blocked price competition, and increase access to affordable life-saving medications. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill that takes a fair market and cost-saving approach to improving our health care system.

HONORING COMMANDER ROBERT
"CLEM" CLEMENTS

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and fellow Naval Officer, CDR Robert S. Clements. Tomorrow, after his 25-year tenure with the United States Navy, Commander Clements will commemorate his retirement with a ceremony aboard the Display Ship *Barry* in the Washington Navy Yard.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve in May 1984 and graduated from Recruit Basic Training in October 1984. After receiving his commission in the Navy and graduating with a B.S. degree in Business Management in May 1988, Commander Clements subsequently graduated from Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, GA, in December 1988.

In January 1989, Commander Clements reported to USS *Savannah* (AOR-4) in Norfolk, VA, and served as the Disbursing Officer, Sales Officer, and Food Service Officer. In April 1992, he reported to Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, LA, where he served as Combined Bachelor Quarters Officer, and Aviation Support Division Officer. After receiving his M.S. degree in business management from Troy State University in August 1994, he served as Supply Officer in USS *Elliot* (DD-967) in San Diego, CA from 1995 to May 1997.

Commander Clements was selected to serve as the Officer in Charge, Chairman's Dining Room, Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Pentagon, Washington, DC, where he served on the Joint Staff from June 1997 to July 1999. A millennium graduate of the Marine Corps University, Command and Staff College, he completed the 10-month Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I curriculum and Military Operations other than War (MOOTW).

Commander Clements served as the Director of Operations, Fleet Hospital Support Office, Williamsburg, VA from August 2000 to September 2003 and as Deputy Director of Operations and Mobilization Officer, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Force (NAVELSF), Williamsburg, VA from October 2002 to July 2004 where he mobilized the initial NAVELSF capabilities in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I. He then served as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics/N4A, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet, Manama, Bahrain in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and additionally, he led the logistics crisis action planning in support of the October 2005 Pakistan earthquake relief effort.

From May 2006 to August 2007, Commander Clements served as the Director of Logistics, Reserve Component Command, Region Mid-Atlantic and was responsible for the integration of Navy Reserve Readiness Command Mid-Atlantic, Wash., D.C. and Navy Re-

serve Readiness Command, Northeast, Newport, RI. He also served as the Director of Logistics, Naval Air Facility, Washington, D.C. from September 2007 to December 2007. Commander Clements is currently the Deputy Director of Training and Readiness (J-97), Joint Reserves Forces, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Fort Belvoir, VA, responsible for the training and readiness of over 750 military reservists assigned throughout the DLA organization supporting worldwide military operations.

His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Commendation medal (three awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (five awards). Commander Clements was the recipient of the Naval Reserve Association's 1994 Junior Officer of the Year Award. He is a life member of the Naval Reserve Association, NRA, and also a member of the National Naval Officers Association. On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my honor to recognize Commander Clements and the essential contributions he has made to our great Nation.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Right now there are over 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in this nation.

Jean Kling in Aiken, SC is one. Upon hearing of her diagnosis, Mrs. Kling tearfully and bravely smiled at her husband and three grown children. Nothing had prepared any of them for this news. But like every other challenge in her life, Mrs. Kling encouraged herself in her faith in Jesus Christ and began the process of getting well.

She underwent a mastectomy. Lost all her hair during six months of chemotherapy and saw signs of re-growth during six months of radiation. After all her treatments, doctors said she was cancer free and she remains that way 10 years later.

Mrs. Kling is one of many women who have survived the devastating diagnosis of breast cancer. During October, we remember our loved ones who have lost their lives to this disease and we thank all those in the medical profession, researchers and the American Cancer Society for all they do to make a difference.

TRIBUTE TO CELIA TORRES
GARCIA MALDONADO

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join in the commemorations of Hispanic Heritage Month and as it is known in my dis-

trict, as the Puerto Rico—Virgin Islands Friendship Celebration, to honor and commend a mover and shaker in my community, who has served our community, in particular its youth in an exceptional manner for many years. Celia Torres Garcia Maldonado, or Cielo, as she is affectionately known, has for the past thirty five years been the visionary behind an organization that has provided structure, creativity, and the opportunity to excel to young women and men on my home island, St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In 1974, when her young daughter expressed interest in becoming a majorette, Cielo, finding that there were not any viable groups for her to join on St. Croix, took it upon herself, with the help of like minded friends to found the St. Croix Majorettes, an organization which has stood the test of time in providing a positive outlet for St. Croix's youth to develop their performing talent.

As the story is told, with the purchase of a baton and the help of her sister Mirta L. Martnez, it all began. The St. Croix Majorettes was organized in May 1974 with Celia T. Maldonado as director, and Mirta L. Martinez and Maria Cotto as co-directors. These ladies were assisted by the late Miguel Duchesne.

The local majorettes started with twenty girls practicing at the Canegata Ball Park. Within two months, and with the help of the Doc James Radio Talk Show, parents were encouraged to register their children and this led to an increase of 150 active participants. In 1975, the St. Croix Majorettes and Marching Band were officially inducted into the Majorettes and Band Federation of Puerto Rico. The organization grew and eventually, Cielo and the St. Croix Majorettes, was responsible for hosting the first Majorette festival on St. Croix. Seven groups came from Puerto Rico and one from St. Thomas to participate in the VIPR Friendship Day celebrations.

Under the leadership of Cielo, the St. Croix Majorettes have been invited and have participated in numerous festivities on the U.S. mainland and Caribbean islands representing St. Croix in a dignified and diligent manner.

After thirty three years, Celio T. Maldonado, director of the St. Croix Majorettes, has over 300 members who are still performing whenever they are called upon to do so. They continue to practice at their headquarters located in Est. Peter's Rest. All members and parents of the St. Croix Majorettes have become her most precious "extended family".

Her utmost satisfaction, pride and joy is when former members, who are now parents, bring their children to enroll. As she travels around and meets her "extended family", her proud remark is always, "This is, or was one of my majorettes."

Cielo's reach has been far and wide. For instance, one of my staffers, Attorney Angeline Muckle Jabbar, one of the original group of little girls who are now successful in their careers, was molded by Cielo and the St. Croix Majorettes.

Madam Speaker, today, I ask the Congress to join me in commending an outstanding Virgin Islander and American of Hispanic Heritage who continues to serve her community and its youth in an outstanding manner.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3183,
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOP-
MENT AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to address briefly the language of Section 401 of the conference report, which requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to provide a report on barriers to the issuance of a combined construction and operating licenses (COLs).

As the Chairman of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the NRC, I want to ensure that the Commission, in responding to Section 401, remains cognizant of its responsibilities to comply with the substantive and procedural requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NRC regulations in the issuing of COLs to new nuclear power plants. These laws cannot be overridden or even challenged by a reporting requirement appended to an annual appropriations bill.

The NRC should, of course, review COL applications in an efficient fashion, without undue or unwarranted delays. However, speed of action is not the only policy interest that the Congress has with respect to licensing. Public confidence in the fairness and integrity of the licensing process requires the Commission to ensure that licensees comply with the substantive safety requirements of the law and of NRC regulations. The Commission must therefore assure that it does not sacrifice crucial safety evaluations, public input or adequate environmental review as part of any effort to streamline or accelerate its regulatory functions.

Under Section 185 of the Atomic Energy Act, the NRC is directed, after holding a public hearing, to "issue to the applicant a combined construction and operating license if the application contains sufficient information to support the issuance of a combined license and the Commission determines that there is reasonable assurance that the facility will be constructed and will operate in conformity with the license, the provisions of this Act, and the Commission's rules and regulations."

The Act further stipulates that in conducting its licensing activities, "The Commission shall identify within the combined license the inspections, tests, and analyses, including those applicable to emergency planning, that the licensee shall perform, and the acceptance criteria that, if met, are necessary and sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that the facility has been constructed and will be operated in conformity with the license, the provisions of this Act, and the Commission's rules and regulations."

Moreover, the Act mandates that: "Following issuance of the combined license, the Commission shall ensure that the prescribed inspections, tests, and analyses are performed and, prior to operation of the facility, shall find that the prescribed acceptance criteria are met."

In addition, NRC regulations 10 CFR Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 52 implement the require-

ments of the Atomic Energy Act and NEPA in regards to the licensing process. Under these regulations, for example, the NRC is required to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the COL application. According to the NRC website, "the NRC staff estimates that the environmental review process will take approximately 24 months. This includes scoping, issuance of the draft EIS, a comment period, and issuance of the final EIS."

While it is true that the necessary reviews take time, the NRC's licensing regulations were enacted to protect the public from poorly sited locations, untested reactor designs, and other factors that could lead to environmental damage, unsafe construction, or even catastrophic nuclear emergencies. I support an efficient and effective NRC licensing process as long as it does not come at the expense of the safeguards codified in existing law.

In point of fact, it does not appear that the licensing process itself is to blame for any delays in new reactor approval. In 2007 the NRC established the Office of New Reactors (NRO), separate from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, so that the NRO can focus solely on the review of new reactors. Indeed, NRC Chairman, Dr. Gregory Jaczko, has repeatedly stated that the licensing delays are "almost exclusively tied to challenges with the [reactor] designs not being complete," resulting in license applications that reference uncertified design plans. This bottleneck has far more to do with the iterative design approval process, than with potential internal NRC barriers such as inefficient administration or inadequate funding. Certainly all must agree that it is impossible for the NRC to approve a license application for which there is not yet an approved design!

Finally, I would note that while Section 401 mandates report submission to the committees on Appropriations, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which is the NRC's authorizing committee, also expects to receive copies of any reports submitted pursuant to this Section.

I look forward to seeing the Commission's report on this matter, and I urge the Commission to pay careful heed to the current laws and regulations under which the NRC operates, so that we ensure that the nuclear reactor application process works properly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 753, "nay" on rollcall 754, and "yea" on rollcall 755.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2997,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN-
ISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report for H.R. 2997, the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010.

My district is home to some of the most fertile farm land in our great nation, as well as some of the hardest working farmers.

While so many people identify Michigan with manufacturing, it can be easy to forget that agriculture is Michigan's second leading industry, and the bright spot in a struggling Michigan economy.

As you drive through my district, you will see fields full of dry beans, sugar beets, corn, wheat, soybeans, various vegetables, and other crops needed to feed our nation and the rest of the world. You will also see thriving cattle and pork industries.

This bill is important because it provides much needed funding for the Farm Services Agency which administers disaster and loan programs, farm commodities and conservation programs directed towards producers.

The bill also goes a long way in providing money for continued agriculture research which is so important in increasing harvest yields and furthering education for our producers. Agriculture research is vitally important to ensure that America remains the greatest food producer in the world.

Finally, this legislation will provide necessary money for our nation's struggling dairy farmers. In these tough economic times, dairy producers have been struggling with a steep drop in price for their product. My district is home to a large dairy industry, and it is of vital importance that we do all that we can to help these producers out.

While there are certainly challenges with this bill, it is vital that we move this important funding bill forward. The funding provided by this bill will serve as strong support for an industry that is crucial for our national economy.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall no. 754, a motion to instruct Conferees on H.R. 2647, the Department of Defense Authorization, FY2010.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF MARK W. LIBELL

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and dedication of Mark William Libell, a member of my staff who is leaving my office to pursue the next phase in his career.

Mark grew up in Alabama and received his bachelor's degree in History from Maryville College in East Tennessee. After getting his start on the Senate side of the Hill, Mark returned to school to pursue a J.D. at the University of Alabama, which he completed in 2 years.

Mark was drawn to the pace and promise of Washington at a young age. With a love of American history, Mark grew up reading the stories of our Nation's leaders. In fact, I think he has the record in my office for the number of books he requested from the Library of Congress. His commitment to public service is evident in his work and has earned the respect of his colleagues.

As the Senior Legislative Assistant in my office, Mark was a valuable resource to me and my staff. His broad knowledge of policy, his appreciation for the rules of the House, and his enthusiasm for the job helped me to advance my legislative priorities and better serve my constituents.

While Mark's work-related contributions have been greatly valued, his sheer presence in the office will be sorely missed. Mark was always one of the first in the office to grab lunch, usually around 11:30 a.m. His choice of food was always a topic of discussion in the office as the aroma filled the air, whether fish from the cafeteria or Chinese food.

Madam Speaker, there is no question that Mark's character of thoughtfulness, dry humor, and fun spirit is strong and will be missed by all.

Mark, I thank you for your service and wish you the best of luck in the future and in your new position.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES FOR INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my deepest sympathies for the people of India and Afghanistan after a cowardly homicide bomb attack outside the Indian Embassy in Kabul this morning. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families who have lost loved ones. As the former co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and current co-chair of the Afghanistan Caucus, I am personally concerned.

These bloodthirsty attacks are a clear sign that we face a determined enemy. But our fight in Afghanistan not just against terrorist elements like Al Qaeda who murdered Americans on September 11. We face a larger threat to the people and to the stability of the

entire region especially our longtime partner Pakistan.

We need to heed the advice of our commanders on the ground who are requesting more reinforcements and more resources. We need to implement a strategy that will capture or kill those responsible for terrorist acts as well as destroy their financial and logistical networks. We must ensure they will not find a safe haven anywhere from which to plot. I join with Republican Whip ERIC CANTOR to urge Democrats and Republicans to uphold President Barack Obama's campaign pledge to protect American families by defeating terrorists in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK STELLA

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today in tribute to Mr. Frank Stella, an icon of Metropolitan Detroit, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on October 30, 2009.

A successful entrepreneur and eternal philanthropist, Mr. Stella embodies the American Dream. The son of Italian immigrants, he bravely served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during the Second World War and founded the F.D. Stella Products Company, a food service distributor, in 1946. His company is today a preeminent national supplier and designer of restaurant equipment.

Over the past six decades, Mr. Stella has not just built a business in Detroit: he has built a legacy in service to the community. His involvement spans prominent educational and medical institutions, civic and business organizations, and charitable and political causes. He has served as a Board Member to the University of Detroit—Mercy for more than two decades, in addition to the Board of Directors for the Detroit Medical Center, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Club of Detroit, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, and the National Italian American Foundation of Washington, D.C., among many, many others. The impact of his philanthropy was recognized by five of our country's presidents and three of our state's governors.

Frank Stella has received many awards, though none can fully capture his contributions to the public and private arenas. His catalogue of honors only begins to highlight the gratitude of those he has served: Mr. Stella was awarded the decoration of 'Grande Ufficiale,' the Government of Italy's highest honor; named 'Michigander of the Year' by the Detroit News and 'Executive of the Year' by the Detroit Executive Association; received the George Romney Award for Lifetime Achievement in Volunteerism, the Urban League Warrior Award, and the Bnai Brith Award, to name just a very few; and was granted three honorary doctorates.

As he turns 90, and is joined by his family, friends, and colleagues in celebration, Mr. Stella is unsurprisingly choosing to honor this landmark occasion with a fundraiser for four of his favorite charities—the National Italian American Foundation Scholarship Fund, Orders of the Sons of Italy in America, Italian Language Inter-cultural Alliance, and Boys Town of Italy. These charities proudly cele-

brate Italian-American culture while inspiring new generations of civic involvement and generosity, fitting tributes to Mr. Stella's continued work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Frank Stella for his lifetime of service and dedication. I wish Mr. Stella a joyous 90th year full of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUNSHINE SLOPERS SKI CLUB

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Sunshine Slopers Ski Club, the first African-American ski club in the state of Florida.

Skiing, a sport that is an exhilarating activity that allows individuals and families to enjoy a natural environment and participate in physical activity, may seem uncommon for residents in the State of Florida. Yet, the Sunshine Slopers Ski Club prospered throughout the last 20 years into a popular and successful club that positively impacts African-American communities through programs that provide opportunities for adults and youth to participate in recreational and competitive skiing.

On June 28, 1989, the first organizational meeting of the Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was held at the North Dade Regional Library in Miami Gardens, Florida. Subsequent meetings were held at the same location while the group developed a club logo, selected club colors, and elected officers. By September 5, 1989, the club was established with 36 charter members and was accepted as a developmental club of the Eastern Region of the NBS. The Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was incorporated on October 2, 1989, thereby becoming the first African-American ski club in the State of Florida. Soon thereafter, the officers began to get the club active through involvement in ski-better workshops and attending eastern regional board meetings.

The groups first trips were: Beech Mountain, North Carolina; Snowshoe, West Virginia; Lake Tahoe, Nevada, Mini-Summit, and Smugglers Notch, Vermont, Winterfest. On March 22, 1990, during the American Challenge Cup Mini-Summit at Heavenly Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe, the Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was officially accepted into the National Brotherhood of Skiers by the national president Paul Ray, national membership director Naomi Bryson and eastern region vice president Jeanie Polk. Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was recognized by Polk as the fastest growing club in the country. At the end of its first year, membership was approximately 140 which included singles, married couples and children. Currently, there are about 200 members of the club.

The Sunshine Slopers strongly supports the NBS' key focus of finding and developing Olympic caliber skiers. Their focus is one of a kind, and fosters assertiveness, self-actualization, and self-determination. Additionally, they aim to develop leaders that are a benefit to various communities. The NBS provides funding to its youth programs in support of young athletes who otherwise would not have the opportunity or financial resources to ski competitively or recreationally.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding Sunshine Slopers Ski Club as it celebrates 20 years of synonymous and exceptional experience to the sport of skiing—which in turn offers unique opportunities to allow all Floridians and Americans a chance to be together outside and enjoy the season. I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate Sunshine Slopers Ski Club before the United States House of Representatives.

OBAMA, THE ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following article entitled "Obama, the Economy and Community Colleges." This article was printed in the Bergen Record on September 15, 2009: [From the Bergen Record, Sept. 15, 2009]

OBAMA, THE ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

(By G. Jeremiah Ryan)

If most experts are to be believed, the recession has bottomed out and we are about to begin the process of rebuilding our economy. While this is good news, it is hardly comforting to the thousands of New Jerseyans who are out of work or underemployed.

That's because although business activity is starting to pick up, job creation isn't. In fact, the same experts who are predicting the start of an economic rebound readily admit that the labor market will continue to deteriorate well into next year, and they expect the unemployment rate to hit double digits.

The question, then, is: What can we do to prevent further erosion in the job market and jump-start employment? President Obama answered that question back in July when, in a major public policy address, he unveiled a plan to spend \$12 billion over the next 10 years to help the nation's community colleges train people for the jobs that will be needed in tomorrow's economy.

PARTNERSHIP

By looking to community colleges for help, the president is harnessing a job-training infrastructure that already exists. No need to reinvent the wheel. Two-year colleges have been preparing students for employment for as long as they have existed. More recently, they have taken the lead in partnering with government agencies to provide customized job training for businesses in their communities.

Bergen Community College and the Bergen County Workforce Improvement Board came together this summer to help supermarket retailer Whole Foods train 300 of its employees at stores in Paramus and Edgewater. The board helped arrange a \$1 million training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, while the college developed training budgets and schedules, and located instructors for computer courses, as well as for classes in customer service and basic supervision.

Obama is not the only one to recognize the value of community colleges. The public has, too. This fall, many two-year colleges saw sharp increases in enrollment. As of the first day of classes, Bergen Community College had enrolled 16,769 students, a 17 percent increase over last year.

Two-year colleges are also preparing students to join the workforce in a relatively

short period of time. Labor market experts believe that in the future there will be a strong supply of jobs for people who have two-year degrees or occupational certificates. In fact, these so-called "middle-skill" jobs—nurses, hotel managers, paralegals, etc.—make up about 50 percent of the labor market in New Jersey and pay above-average salaries. A licensed practical nurse, for example, earned a median salary of \$46,800 in 2006, well above the \$35,838 median salary for all occupations in New Jersey that year.

FLEXIBILITY

To have a lasting impact on the economy, it will be important to prepare students for jobs in industries that are growing and have a future. A hallmark of county colleges has been their ability and willingness to add courses of study that are in demand by the communities they serve. This year, Bergen Community College added nine more degree programs in subjects such as non-profit management, homeland security, fire science and sports management. When you add them to the existing curricula, Bergen students have 140 programs of study to choose from, each leading to a rewarding career.

Obama's speech was a beginning, a recognition that the path to improving employment must include community colleges. Many details need to be worked out, but we have the know-how and experience to help people get back to work.

G. Jeremiah Ryan is president of Bergen Community College in Paramus.

HONORING CHIEF WILLIAM "DUB" WARRIOR OF BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize Chief William "Dub" Warrior of Brackettville, Texas, a Historian and Seminole-Negro Indian descendant of the John Horse Band, and commemorate the distinguished service and loyalty of the Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts to the United States Army.

Following the Civil War, the Army was called into west Texas to defend settlements and travelers against retaliation raids from displaced Apache and Comanche Indians. However, they lacked the ability to track down and stop them. The Army needed experienced Indian fighters who knew the rugged terrain and were as skilled as their opponents at surviving and fighting in the desert borderlands. Thus, in 1870 the fearless Seminole-Negro Indians were recruited from Mexico as U.S. Army scouts. They were highly regarded and praised by their commanders for being excellent trackers, hunters and marksmen, and experts at hand-to-hand combat. During twenty-six expeditions they engaged in twelve battles without losing a single scout, and their bravery earned four scouts the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Therefore Madam Speaker it is my great pleasure to rise and announce in honor of these esteemed persons that the greater Washington, DC chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Calvary Association, in partnership with the Army Freedom Team Salute and St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Washington, DC, has planned a Seminole-Negro Indian Recognition

Ceremony for today, Friday, October 9, 2009 in the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Chapel. Chief William "Dub" Warrior will be the keynote speaker for this event. He is the descendant of Tony Warrior, who collaborated with and assisted John Horse, leader of the Seminole-Negro Indians, in the movement of their tribe from Indian Territory to slavery-prohibited Mexico. Chief Warrior's grandfather, Carolina Warrior, and great grandfather, Bill Warrior, were members of the revered U.S. Army scouts.

TESTIMONIAL RECOGNIZING MS. LUCY BECKHAM AS THE 2010 NATIONAL SECONDARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 08, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to Ms. Lucy Beckham of Wando High School in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina on her selection as the 2010 National Secondary Principal of the Year.

This distinction, presented by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, is a most deserving recognition of her leadership and dedication to the students entrusted to her.

The National Principal of the Year program began in 1993 and was established to honor those education administrators that have set the highest example for their peers.

Ms. Beckham's contributions and sense-of-purpose extend beyond the campus of Wando to so many areas including her church and numerous community activities.

I am certain that all of the faculty and staff at Wando are proud to have her at the helm, and as the grandparent of a Wando student, speaking for all the families of the greater Charleston area, we congratulate her for being No. 1 at Wando and for now being No. 1 in the Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "WATER TRANSFER FACILITATION ACT OF 2009"

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, yesterday with Congressman CARDOZA I introduced the "Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009." Given the overwhelming water user support we received for this bill, I am submitting additional letters in connection with this bill.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
WATER AUTHORITY,

San Joaquin Valley, CA, October 5, 2009.

Re Support for Transfer Legislation for the Central Valley Project.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), we thank you for introducing transfer legislation for the Central Valley Project (CVP)

and we support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility for management of CVP water supplies.

The diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of various regulatory restrictions, including the most recent delta smelt and salmon Biological Opinions and three years of below average precipitation statewide, have, as you know, created a desperate situation in the San Joaquin Valley.

While long-term solutions are being sought, numerous short term efforts are needed to help bridge the water supply gap and great flexibility, as provided in your legislation, to move water supplies within the San Joaquin Valley would be a useful tool.

The Exchange Contractors consist of four member agencies serving over 240,000 acres in the San Joaquin Valley in Fresno, Madera, Merced, and Stanislaus Counties.

We look forward to engaging in this effort and working closely with you and your staff in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues.

Sincerely,

STEVE CHEDESTER,
Executive Director.

SAN LUIS WATER DISTRICT,
Los Banos, CA, October 5, 2009.

Re Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
*U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,
*U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. DENNIS CARDOZA,
*House Representatives, Longworth Building,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. JIM COSTA,
*House of Representatives, Longworth House Of-
fice Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN, SENATOR BOXER, MR. CARDOZA, and MR. COSTA: I am writing on behalf of the San Luis Water District and its Board of Directors. We strongly support the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009. Given the regulatory impacts of recent Biologic Opinions, the survival of our commercial, residential and agricultural water users is increasingly dependent on supplemental water transfers. Your legislation will bring important reform to existing transfer authorization and this essential water management tool.

Coping with chronic water supply shortages impacting the Central Valley Project requires implementation of best management practices including water transfers. The need to transfer water is often urgent. Regrettably, bureaucratic process can unnecessarily thwart successful execution of a transfer. Your legislation will improve the capability of water managers throughout the State to effectively and efficiently respond to the ongoing crisis.

Your continuing efforts to address these important matters are critical and deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

MARTIN R. MCINTYRE,
General Manager.

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT,
Fresno, CA, October 6, 2009.

Re Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
*U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I am writing on behalf of Westlands Water District to express its support for your bill, the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009, authorizing certain transfers of water in the Central Valley Project and other purposes. Water transfers

are a critical tool for providing water supplies for areas that are faced with chronic water supply shortages. However, the approval process for many transfers often distract from their usefulness. Your legislation will bring important reform to existing transfer authorization thus increasing the efficacy of this essential water management tool.

As you are keenly aware, the chronic water supply shortages impacting the area of the San Joaquin Valley served by the Central Valley Project demands that water users in the affected area rely on water transfers. Moreover, the need to transfer water is often urgent and in response to climactic conditions that are frequently sporadic and ephemeral. Regrettably, bureaucratic process can unnecessarily thwart successful execution of a transfer. The clarity your legislation brings to existing authorizations will only improve the capability of water managers throughout the State to effectively respond to the ongoing crisis and put our scant water resources to use even more efficiently.

The westside of the San Joaquin Valley is inarguably the most transfer dependent region of the State. Your efforts to address this important matter are greatly appreciated. If there is anything I can do to be of help in connection with your efforts, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS W. BIRMINGHAM,
General Manager/General Counsel.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF THE CLOVERDALE HISTORY CENTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cloverdale Historical Society as it dedicates and opens the new Cloverdale History Center.

The new 4,000 square foot, temperature controlled History Center will house and preserve a wide variety of artifacts and documents and provide accommodations for historical, genealogical and cultural research. It will be the centerpiece of a cultural renaissance in what has become Sonoma County's fastest growing city.

The Society is staffed 100 percent by volunteers who take great pride in the area's heritage and its diversity. It was founded in 1968 by local residents dedicated to preserving the local history of this vibrant community.

One of its more unique projects is its ongoing work to completely restore Cloverdale's oldest residential structure. The Gould-Shaw house and its gardens face the town's main boulevard and lend a 19th century charm through its Gothic Revival architectural style.

The Historical Society has also hosted the annual "Old Time Fiddle Festival" for the past 35 years. The event helps preserve the historic fiddling culture and has fostered appreciation for this distinctively American music among the thousands of visitors who have participated in this event throughout the years.

Madam Speaker, the City of Cloverdale is rightfully proud of the Historical Society and its new History Center. It is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge and honor the Cloverdale Historical Society and the countless volunteers who have made this dream a reality.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on earmarks, I secured the following earmarks in the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2467.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO (NJ-02)

Bill Number: H.R. 2467 (Conference Report)

Account: Army—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: (1) Drexel University; (2) Waterfront Technology Center

Address of Requesting Entity: (1) 3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104; (2) 200 Federal Street, Suite 300, Camden, NJ 08103

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$3.8 million for Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN). ACIN enables the warfighter to rapidly deploy state-of-the-practice communications and networking technology for warfighting and National Security. This funding will build on funding from previous years to fully develop this technology.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO (NJ-02)

Bill Number: H.R. 2467 (Conference Report)

Account: Air Force—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Accenture
Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Federal Street, Suite 300, Camden, NJ 08103

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$4.0 million for Distributed Mission Interoperability Toolkit (DMIT). DMIT is a suite of tools that enables an enterprise architecture for on-demand, trusted, interoperability among and between mission-oriented C4I systems. This spending will build on funding from previous years to allow DMIT to be extended to Joint and coalition requirements, and address current weaknesses in Air Force management years ahead of current schedules. Adoption by major programs and commercial entities would lead to savings in the \$100 millions on current and future DOD programs.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO (NJ-02)

Bill Number: H.R. 2467 (Conference Report)

Account: Navy—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Absecon Mills Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: Vienna and Aloe Avenues, PO Box 672, Cologne, NJ 08213

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2.5 million for Force Protection—Non-Traditional Weaving Application for Aramid (Ballistic) Fibers and Fabrics. By reevaluating standard Industry design and manufacturing techniques for force protection technology, we believe Non-Traditional weave designs of Aramid (ballistic) fiber coupled with new applications of microwave plasma treatments can enhance the strength of the fiber and result in enhanced individual mobility, ease of medical access, reduced weight, increased ballistic protection, cost effective savings and weight reduction of ballistic materials currently used.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO (NJ-02)

Bill Number: H.R. 2467 (Conference Report)
Account: Air Force—Advance Procurement
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Com-
munications Systems

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Federal
Street, Camden, NJ 08103

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$3.75 million for Senior Scout COMINT (Communications Intelligence) Capability Upgrade. As part of the Senior Scout ongoing mission, there is an immediate need to add improved COMINT capability to detect and characterize new, modern, low-power radio signals at extended standoff ranges in the presence of interference. The current systems are not able to detect these specific signal sets, which limits intelligence collection capabilities.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DENNIS RAHIIM WATSON AND HIS ONE-MAN SHOW, "FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, as we celebrated the election of President Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States, I rise to pay tribute to motivational speaker Dennis Rahiim Watson on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of his critically acclaimed one-man show, "The First Black President of the United States," which made its debut in the Art Gallery of the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building in my beloved village of Harlem, New York.

Since 1982, Dennis Rahiim Watson, a Bermuda born and Harlem raised former actor-comedian, has made a major contribution for over a quarter of a century to black and white youths of America. Throughout his life, he has inspired, motivated and challenged over 5 million youth and adults alike with his one-man show, "The First Black President of the United States." Dennis has thrilled audiences at high schools, colleges, and universities among them Harvard, Notre Dame, Howard, University of Georgia, Tufts, NYU, CCNY, Malcolm-King College, Illinois State University and University of Pittsburgh.

Former President William Jefferson Clinton in a letter to Dennis stated that, "for over a quarter of a century you have used your role as the First Black President of the United States to give disadvantaged youth an insight into the future and its possibilities, and by your own example you have helped to provide countless young people with the tools and encouragement they need to reach their god-given potential. Your life's work has been a true investment in the future of our Nation."

More recently, President Barack Obama in a letter praised Watson for his role as the First Black President of the United States by stating that, "theatre has the power to inspire and the power to teach and it's important to use that power to lift up and honor our highest ideals." "You have broadcast the message in your role as the First Black President of the United States that all children can dream big dreams and that anyone regardless of the color of their skin can achieve anything. Anyone can

grow up to become President of the United States."

I congratulate Dennis Rahiim Watson on his latest achievement of becoming the new Chairman of the National Youth and Gang Violence Taskforce and President and CEO of the Center for Black Student Achievement. Your commitment to the value of educating our youngsters and listening to their concerns is irrefutable.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing my good friend Dennis Rahiim Watson. His success is a testament to his historic and tireless commitment to bringing African-American youth the vision, the hope, and the dream that an African-American could become President in our lifetime before anyone ever knew it was remotely possible.

HONORING COLONEL KIMBERLY B. SIEVERS

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kimberly B. Sievers, Colonel, United States Air Force on her retirement from active duty service on October 1, 2009, after serving for 27 years in uniform in defense of our country.

In 1982, Colonel Sievers reported to the U.S. Air Force Academy. She graduated in 1986 and began training as an intelligence officer at Lowery Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. She spent the next several years directly supporting flying operations, providing intelligence and training to pilots at the fighter squadron level—including the 80th Tactical Fighter Squadron in Kunsan Air Base, Republic of South Korea, and the 50th Tactical Fighter Wing in Hahn Air Base, Germany.

Colonel Sievers continued to develop her analytical and leadership skills at Ramstein Air Base in Germany at both the 7450th Tactical Intelligence Squadron and the European Command staff, ending her time at Ramstein as the Team Leader for Intelligence Force Management. She returned to Korea for a second tour at the operation level, leading the Intelligence Plans and Manpower section at 7th Air Force and then the Analyst Element at the 607th Air Intelligence Squadron. From there, Colonel Sievers moved to the Pacific Air Force staff in Hawaii where she directed the liaison efforts between the staff and intelligence elements of all the Air Force squadrons in the Pacific.

Colonel Sievers was then selected to serve in the first of what would be many future leadership positions, as the Director of Operations for the Pacific Intelligence Squadron. She spent a year in residence at the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. From there, she was selected to command the Intelligence Division at the elite USAF Weapons School at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Colonel Sievers was herself one of the very first intelligence officers to graduate from the Weapons School and only the second "home grown" Intelligence Weapons Officer to command the division. Building on that experience, Colonel Sievers was selected to command the

93rd Intelligence Squadron at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas. The 93rd is the largest intelligence squadron in the Air Force with over 800 personnel.

Following that successful command, the Air Force sent Colonel Sievers back to school at the National Defense University, here in Washington, DC. During times of war the best and brightest are needed to lead our young men and women and the Air Force turned to Colonel Sievers to serve as the forward Director of Intelligence for the entire Air Force component under Central Command. Deployed forward to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, Colonel Sievers directed the efforts of all intelligence personnel supporting combat operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Returning to the U.S., Colonel Sievers utilized her war experience to help guide the Department of Defense intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance enterprise as the Collection Requirements Division Chief at the Joint Functional Component Command for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. This would be her final assignment as both she and her husband have chosen to retire from active duty.

I am proud to represent Colonel Sievers in the U.S. Congress. She has forged many new paths within both the intelligence career field and the Air Force, and has led thousands of men and women in both peace and war. Our nation is safer because of her dedication. Colonel Sievers is a unique leader, inspiring those around her to perform at the very highest levels in pursuit of mission accomplishment, yet at the same time possessing the compassion to ensure that those in her charge—and their families—are cared for properly. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and thanking Colonel Sievers for her exemplary service, leadership, dedication, and sacrifice to our nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECIPROCAL MARKET ACCESS ACT OF 2009

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reciprocal Market Access Act. In the wake of the biggest economic crisis since the Great Depression, our country faces a difficult road towards recovery. As part of this effort, it is critical that we ensure that our trade policy is working as it should: to generate new opportunities for our businesses, strengthen American manufacturing capabilities, and reduce the unemployment rate that has risen to the highest level in decades.

American manufacturers of products ranging from optical fiber to autos and agriculture face continual problems with access to overseas markets. Our own trade negotiators do little to prevent this from happening, as it is often standard for trade agreements to open our markets fully to foreign competitors, yet we gain little market access in return.

We must provide our negotiators with unequivocal guidelines so that they do not relinquish our domestic trade protections without

gaining meaningful market access for American manufacturers in exchange. Unless other governments play by the rules and remove barriers to our exports, the U.S. should not acquiesce to their demands by further opening our market—which is already the most open market in the global economy. Unilateral disarmament in the face of foreign protectionist practices is unacceptable, and we must ensure that our trade negotiators do not undermine our industries and our workers.

The Reciprocal Market Access Act would instruct our trade negotiators to eliminate foreign market barriers before reducing U.S. tariffs. This bill would also provide enforcement authority to reinstate the tariff if the foreign government does not honor its commitment to remove its barriers.

This legislation also addresses a serious problem in the current trade negotiating process. Tariff and non-tariff sectoral barriers are compartmentalized, meaning that a tariff item can be reduced or eliminated by our negotiators without securing elimination of the non-tariff barriers that deny U.S. industry access to a foreign market. This legislation would give our government the right to revoke concessions to cut tariffs if our trading partners fail to implement negotiated commitments to eliminate barriers that had initially been identified by U.S. domestic producers for our negotiators.

The principle of reciprocity—the principle on which this legislation is built—is not new. In fact it is a principle that should be essential to any effective trade relationship. Cordell Hull, Democrat from Tennessee and Roosevelt's Secretary of State in 1933, was responsible for bringing this concept into the U.S. and global trade systems with the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act of 1934. It was this act which formed the basis for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Mr. Hull developed the Act to move away from the negative consequences of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which raised U.S. tariffs on thousands of imports to record levels. Smoot-Hawley established the United States as protectionist, and provoked a rash of retaliatory measures from our trading partners.

It is no longer the United States that is shutting its markets to foreign competitors. We have the most open market in the world, and continue to find ways to lower tariffs and eliminate market barriers. Yet this policy is often not reciprocated, as American manufacturers find significant barriers to foreign markets while they watch their own domestic market share dwindle. The result is quality American companies are forced to downsize or close their doors for good, and American workers are left jobless.

That is not free trade. Free trade involves a system where American companies are able to compete in markets uninhibited by barriers. It involves a level playing field for American companies and our trading partners. And I have no doubt that if given a level playing field, American companies and American workers can compete in any market.

The Reciprocal Market Access Act will mandate that at the very least any trade agreement does not put American companies and workers at a competitive disadvantage. It establishes what should be the standard for all trade agreements: a mutually beneficial trade relationship in which goods can be freely exchanged and that promotes economic growth.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF CYRUS BLACKMAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Cyrus Blackman, a World War II hero and a Northwest Florida community leader who passed away on October 7, 2009. Mr. Blackman spent his life serving his country and his family, and I am proud to honor his lifetime of dedication and service.

Cy Blackman was a native and lifelong resident of Milton, Florida. He joined the United States Army at a young age during World War II, and went on to serve with the 563rd Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion operating trucks to move personnel, equipment, and supplies under extremely hazardous combat conditions. A veteran of combat in much of Central Europe, Cy fought honorably in the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of the Rhine, receiving the World War II Victory Medal, the American Service Medal, and the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with three Bronze Stars.

After demobilization at the end of the war, Cy returned to Northwest Florida. He worked at International Paper, where he retired. Despite his service in World War II, for 60 years Cy never spoke of his time in the Army and never requested Veterans Administration benefits. However in 2008, Cy participated in the Emerald Coast Honor Flight, an experience that changed his life. After visiting the National World War II Memorial, he began to open up about his experiences in the war, and later even served as a spokesman for the Honor Flight organization, connecting the community with our veterans.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Cy Blackman as an American hero reflective of the spirit of Northwest Florida. Cy will be remembered as a loving husband and father and as an important part of our community. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his wife, Polly, children, Christopher and Lecia, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as we remember and honor the life of Cy Blackman.

HONORING DONNA P. JERNIGAN,
BSN, RN, CRRN, MS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna P. Jernigan of Carolina Case Management and president of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) and a resident of Sanford, North Carolina in my district. Ms. Jernigan will soon complete her year as the 2008–2009 national president of the ARN, a professional organization representing professional nurses who work to enhance the quality of life for those who are affected by physical disabilities or chronic illnesses. During her tenure as president at ARN, Ms. Jernigan has been a strong leader and advocate for rehabilitation nurses, as well as the patients ARN serves every day.

Since 1974, ARN has been the leading source for the latest rehabilitation information, resources, and professional development and career opportunities for rehabilitation nursing professionals. ARN members are nurses, with a broad range of clinical experience, dedicated to helping individuals affected by chronic illness or a physical disability adapt to their disabilities, achieve their greatest potential, and work toward productive, independent lives. Presently, ARN comprises a nationwide network of more than 5,500 rehabilitation nurses who practice in many settings, including hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, home health agencies, sub-acute and long-term care facilities, and private companies.

Ms. Jernigan earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the California State University and her Master of Science degree in Management, with a concentration in Healthcare Planning, from Troy University. In addition to Ms. Jernigan's academic achievements, she is the author of "Bureaucrats at the Gate," an article published in ARN Network in 2003. She has also given presentations numerous times on topics relating to electronic medical records, surviving the nursing shortage, uniform data systems, and using algorithms in rehabilitation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the outgoing president of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses, Donna P. Jernigan, for her dedication and exemplary work in the field of rehabilitation nursing.

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL TERRY L. GABRESKI

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, United States Air Force Lieutenant General Terry Gabreski, the highest-ranking female officer in the Air Force, is retiring after 35 years of distinguished and honorable service to our nation.

General Gabreski distinguished herself as Vice Commander of the U.S. Air Force Material Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, located in my congressional district, from August, 2005 through January, 2010. During her leadership, she catapulted the Air Force Material Command into one of the most highly efficient and productive organizations within the Department of Defense.

General Gabreski executed over 40 percent of the entire U.S. Air Force budget during her tenure and oversaw the full operational capability of the F-22A.

General Gabreski supported the warfighter, ensuring our forward-deployed operations have the resources they need. She also oversaw the development and deployment of AngelFire persistent surveillance and the reconnaissance program, which was lauded by the U.S. Marine Corps as "war-winning technology." She is also responsible for the Aeronautical System Center's Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) program, which was established in response to the portable anti-aircraft missile threat to intra-theater airlift.

General Gabreski worked to effectively make sure the Air Force lived within its budget. She radically simplified and streamlined the

Air Force sustainment funding system through the development and implementation of Centralized Asset Management (CAM). These efforts allowed the Air Force to make decisions within constrained funding, enabling warfighters to focus on their primary missions, and established a new level of credibility in warfighter support overall.

General Gabreski was a leader and inspiration to the Dayton community. During her time at WPAFB, she participated in many events, offering advice to women in leadership roles. She is a credit to the Air Force and a source of support and inspiration to many throughout the military and the Dayton community.

As General Gabreski culminates a distinguished career of more than three decades of Air Force service, I appreciate her dedication to her country, her outstanding performance as the highest ranking female officer in the Air Force, and her significant contributions toward strengthening our military.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 2009

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Civil Access to Justice Act of 2009. The purpose of this legislation is to reauthorize the Legal Services Corporation, which has not been reauthorized by Congress since 1977. Legal Services Corporation was established by Congress in 1974 to provide legal assistance to low-income people in civil matters. LSC directs and supervises the federal grants to local legal service providers who give legal assistance to low-income clients.

I am particularly pleased that we are introducing this bill, not only because it helps those in need, but because of my personal experiences with the program. Over 30 years ago, I was the founding Chairman of the Board of Peninsula Legal Aid Center, Inc., so I am aware of the need for resources to make a legal services program fully operational. In this bill, we are seeking to ensure that the Corporation has the resources required to help those in need.

The bill accomplishes several goals. It increases the authorized funding level for LSC to \$750 million. This is approximately the amount, adjusted for inflation, appropriated in 1981, which was the high watermark for LSC funding. LSC is currently funded at \$390 million—which, in current dollars, is well below the amount needed to fully fund the program. Currently, more than 80 percent of individuals who need civil legal representation do not have the means to obtain it. Families who need this assistance the most make less than 125 percent of the poverty line or about \$27,500 for a family of four. Nationally, 50 percent of these eligible applicants for legal assistance from federally funded programs are turned away mainly because these programs lack ample funding. Moreover, as the economy continues to decline, the number of individuals who will need legal representation will increase. We need to ensure that resources are available to provide legal services to those who cannot afford adequate representation.

The \$750 million authorized in the bill should be enough to ensure a minimum level of access to legal aid in every county in the country.

Although the program has not been reauthorized in over 30 years, appropriations bills over that time have placed restrictions on the activities that attorneys in LSC programs can provide. The bill lifts most of these restrictions, including collecting attorneys' fees, permitting legal aid attorneys to bringing class-action suits, and allowing lobbying with non-federal funds. In the spirit of compromise, the bill does maintain the prohibition on abortion related litigation and incorporates some limits on whom LSC-funded programs can represent, including prisoners challenging prison conditions and people convicted of illegal drug possession in public housing eviction proceedings. The bill also provides for more effective administration of LSC.

The Government Accountability Office wrote reports highlighting issues with the governance of LSC. In an August 2007 report, GAO found "... LSC has not kept up with evolving reforms aimed at strengthening internal control over an organization's financial reporting process and systems." That same report stated that "The current board has four committees, but none are specifically targeted at providing critical audit, ethics, or compensation functions, which are important governance mechanisms commonly used in corporate governance structures. Because it has not taken advantage of opportunities to incorporate such practices, LSC's Board of Directors is at risk of not being able to fulfill its role of effective governance and oversight."

Overall, the Civil Access to Justice Act of 2009 will provide relief to those who need civil legal representation. I would like to thank Judiciary Committee Chairman CONYERS and Representatives COHEN, WATT, DELAHUNT, LINDA SÁNCHEZ and HANK JOHNSON for their hard work and dedication to this cause. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this important legislation to ensure that those who need civil legal representation are able to obtain it.

ARMY STRYKER FORCE IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit to the RECORD the attached information concerning a constituent and a mother of a soldier that served in Afghanistan.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 8, 2009.

Hon. ROBERT M. GATES,
Secretary of Defense,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Last month I received a letter from a constituent and mother of a soldier that served in Afghanistan. She was concerned after learning that the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) had not been authorized the necessary Improvised Explosive Device Detection Dogs (IEDDDs) for its mission.

After forwarding her concerns to the U.S. Department of the Army, I received a re-

sponse from U.S. Army Central Command dated September 30, 2009 from Chief of Staff Colonel Stephen M. Twitty. The response stated "On August 14, 2009, the command submitted an urgent universal needs statement to their higher headquarters, United States Forces—Afghanistan for 75 IEDDDs with handlers for immediate fielding" and that the request was still pending at that time.

It is my understanding that after fifty-six days of operations since the urgent request was made by commanders in the field, the 5th Brigade has yet to receive the necessary IEDDDs. I am concerned that commanders on the ground are not receiving resources they are requesting. Please provide an explanation of the plan that is in place to ensure that our troops on the ground have the assets needed to keep Americans safe and detect IEDs.

If you have any questions, please contact my district director, Mark Bell. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. TIBERI,
Representative to Congress.

Enclosures.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, THIRD
ARMY, UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
CHIEF OF STAFF, G1.

Fort McPherson, GA, September 30, 2009.

Hon. PATRICK J. TIBERI,
Representative in Congress,
Columbus, OH.

DEAR MR. TIBERI: Thank you for your recent letter to the Department of Defense on behalf of concerns.

The 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) arrived in Afghanistan in July 2009 and deployed into sector in August 2009 with all assigned mine detection equipment. The brigade is not authorized Improvised Explosive Device Detection Dogs (IEDDDs) or K9 handlers in accordance with their Headquarters, Department of the Army approved Modified Table of Organization and Equipment, dated April 16, 2009. On August 14, 2009, the command submitted an urgent universal needs statement to their higher headquarters, United States Forces—Afghanistan for 75 IEDDDs with handlers for immediate fielding. That request is still pending at this time.

This command stands ready to provide any further assistance required by your office.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. TWITTY,
Colonel (P), U.S. Army, Chief of Staff.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009.

Re Army Stryker Force In Afghanistan.

SGT MARK BELL AND JASON DOMINGUEZ IN
PAT TIBERI'S OFFICE.

This last week, Army Stryker Force in Afghanistan was on the news. Their job is to sweep Afghan villages for IED's. They've lost 9 people in the last month. The point made was that they do not have bomb sniffing dogs or metal detectors. I actually watched a soldier trying to visually inspect a mud wall for an IED. This isn't the first time that I've seen such reports on the news or shows about the military.

If my information is correct, then those 9 lives lost cost the military 9 million dollars. This is outrageous. 9 families lost loved ones because their unit didn't have the proper equipment. Do you think that for 9 million, the Army could send dogs for every unit? Do I need to say Da.

I wrote you about the units needing dogs quite some time ago. Apparently, no one paid attention. If you're going to send the military, then you MUST equip them with

what they need. That includes dogs. I will be happy to raise the money to pay for them but I can't ship them to any unit. You can believe me when I say that I've tried. My son completed one year in Afghanistan and two in Iraq. I thank God every day for his return. Parents can purchase and ship lots of things. I can buy a bomb sniffing dog. I just can't ship the dog. And the dog needs a handler. It's not something that a unit soldier can learn on the job.

I want Stryker Force and every other unit to have two dogs with handlers. And I want it now. The military can do it. They just need the proper motivation. What will it take?

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF
SIMI VALLEY'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the City of Simi Valley's 40th birthday.

On September 20, 1969, the people who lived in the unincorporated Ventura County, California, communities of Simi Valley and Santa Susana voted 6,454 to 3,685 to incorporate. On October 10, 1969, the combined communities officially incorporated into the city of Simi Valley.

Simi Valley lies on the far eastern end of Ventura County. Ventura, the county seat, lies on the far western end. It is a long drive to obtain governmental approval, and the quest for local control is what drove incorporation.

Since incorporation, the people of the city have worked tirelessly to structure a safe, balanced, family-friendly and business-friendly community. It was done by embracing citizen involvement. Neighborhood Councils, the Youth Council and the Council On Aging were established as part of the government infrastructure, ensuring that residents of all ages have an opportunity to be heard and to be involved in government decisions at a grass-roots level.

Today, Simi Valley maintains more than 20 citizen advisory boards and commissions that advise the City Council on a variety of community issues.

Obviously, in any city differences of opinion arise. But unlike in some cities, Simi Valley's elected leaders have a well-earned reputation for discussing issues vigorously and then, once a vote is taken and the decision is made, having all sides come together behind that decision. I believe that is very much the result of empowering the community to shape the issues before they come to the City Council.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of my role in helping to shape Simi Valley. I served on the City Council as a member and appointed mayor, and as the city's first elected mayor, from 1979 to 1986. During that time, we began bringing jobs into what was then primarily a bedroom community, and there was much debate on how to accomplish that.

One of the issues that came from that debate was the creation of the city's first hillside ordinances, which we passed while I was mayor. The issue was framed by many as preservation vs. development. I was seen as being on the side of development. Then-Councilwoman Ann Rock was seen as being on the side of preservation.

Either side could have dug in their heels and accomplished nothing. Instead, working together, and with the help of many other conscientious people, Ann and I crafted an ordinance that worked for both sides. In the process, Ann and I also became dear friends. Ann has since passed away, but her handiwork can still be seen in much of Simi Valley.

Simi Valley shows the handiwork of many, many others, too. From the burgeoning farming community that incorporated in 1969, Simi Valley has grown into a balanced city of about 120,000 people with homes, schools and churches alongside upscale retail centers and clean industry. Since 1993, it has been among the top 10 safest cities in America, and topped the list several times. It is the home of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum and the gateway to Ventura County. I am proud of the city I have called home since before it was a city.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me wishing Simi Valley, California, a happy 40th birthday and congratulate its citizens on a job well done.

WATER TRANSFER FACILITATION
ACT OF 2009

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, due to overwhelming response from water users in the Central Valley, I am compelled today to introduce additional letters of support for the Water Transfer Facilitation Act of 2009. The bill would grant authority to the Bureau of Reclamation to approve voluntary water transfers between sellers and buyers in the San Joaquin Valley and streamline environmental reviews for Central Valley water transfers.

The bill is supported by a great number of water users across the Central Valley, including the following: Friant Water Users Authority; San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority; Delta-Mendota Canal Authority; Westlands Water District; Metropolitan Water District; Glen Colusa Irrigation District; Northern California Water Association; Banta-Carbona Irrigation District; Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority; Association of California Water Agencies; Placer County Water Agency; Conaway Preservation Group; and Reclamation District 2035.

Thank you.

PCWA,

October 6, 2009.

Hon. JIM COSTA,
1314 Longworth House Office Building, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

Re Support of Central Valley Project Water Transfer Legislation.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), we thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a programmatic approach to promote and manage water transfers in California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater regulatory certainty for the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies for water users.

As you may be aware, PCWA has participated in water transfers in the past to help meet the needs of water users within the CVP and is intimately aware of the impacts

diminished water deliveries cause to farmers and communities. Because of PCWA's experience with previous water transfers, we also would like an opportunity to meet you and your staff to discuss additional regulatory improvements to Reclamation law that would streamline future transfers.

Because of below average precipitation and regulatory requirements placed upon the CVP and its water users through the requirements established by the recent National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions for endangered smelt and salmon, the impact to water users is severe. Your legislation will provide much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the State of California.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY,

GRAHAM L. ALLEN,

Chairman, Board of Directors.

CONAWAY PRESERVATION GROUP,

Woodland, CA, Oct. 2, 2009.

Re Support for water transfer legislation:

Hon. JIM COSTA,

*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of the Conaway Preservation Group, LLC (CPG), thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. We support your efforts and this legislation as a means of providing greater flexibility in the management of Central Valley Project (CVP) and other water supplies to help meet unmet needs critical to the future of the State of California.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP. Further, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to develop the necessary long-term environmental documentation addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake is a critical and necessary near-term next step.

CPG owns the Conaway Ranch in Yolo County. The Conaway Ranch property covers more than 17,000 acres on the west side of the Sacramento River between the cities of Davis and Woodland. Conaway Ranch has been operated for many years to meet goals of agricultural production and waterfowl/wildlife habitat. Approximately 40 percent of the Ranch is located within the Yolo Bypass and the remainder lies west of the bypass. Conaway Ranch's water rights and Bureau of Reclamation Settlement Contract are held by CPG. CPG's Settlement Contract water is a major contributor to the Conaway Ranch water supply during its annual summer operational term of April 1 through October 31.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months in this important legislative effort, and appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation

and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

TOVEY GIEZENTANNER,
President and CEO,
Conaway Preservation Group, LLC.

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2035,

Woodland, CA, October 6, 2009.

Re Support for water transfer legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Reclamation District 2035, thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. Reclamation District 2035 (RD 2035) was formed in 1919 to provide flood control and water delivery for approximately 22,000 acres in Yolo County, California. While RD 2035 does not own water rights, it is responsible for the delivery of CVP water to its agricultural customers whose crops represent the top three agricultural commodities in Yolo County.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP. Further, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to develop the necessary long-term environmental documentation addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake is a critical and necessary near-term next step.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important legislative effort.

Sincerely,

REGINA J. CHEROVSKY,
Chairperson.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL J.
SANTORO UPON RECEIVING THE
2008 CHENEY AWARD

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CPT Daniel J. Santoro, a member of the Tampa Bay community for receiving the 2008 Cheney award for distinguished service in the United States Air Force.

Captain Santoro is a C-130E instructor pilot, assigned to the 37th Airlift Squadron, 86th Operations Group, 86th Airlift Wing, at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Captain Santoro was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 1977; he attended the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, graduating in 2000 with a Bachelor's of Science in Human Factors Engineering.

After graduation, Captain Santoro continued his pilot training at Whiting Field Naval Air Station, in my home State for Florida. His service to our country has taken him to numerous States: Oklahoma, Arkansas, and North Carolina where he constantly worked to improve

his skills to keep our country safe. Often recognized for his leadership and tireless dedication, Captain Santoro was assigned to Ramstein Air Base in Germany, where he would serve bravely in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, among others.

In 2008, as the Chief Tactics and Instructor Pilot, his squadron completed 29 missions and delivered 211 tons of humanitarian cargo, including food and hygiene kits, to the country of Georgia. It is because of these heroic actions that Captain Santoro is receiving the 2008 Cheney Award; which is given for an "act of valor, extreme fortitude, or self-sacrifice in a humanitarian interest, performed in connection with aircraft, but not necessarily of a military nature, by an Air Force officer or enlisted member." The award is named after Lt. William H. Cheney, who was killed in an air collision in Italy in 1918.

Madam Speaker, Captain Santoro is a true testament to the bravery and the sacrifices made by the men and women in the Armed Forces. His accomplishments are significant and an inspiration.

CONGRATULATING ALICIA SEIDEL

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of a brave young girl in my district, Alicia Seidel, and congratulate her for being named an honoree at the 2009 Arthritis Walk happening this Saturday in Bellevue, Washington, and for living her life so bravely while battling her disease.

Alicia, a ten-year-old fifth grader from Sammamish, Washington, was diagnosed in 2007 with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Immediately before and for some time following the diagnosis, Alicia struggled to do something as simple as holding a pencil. Thankfully, the wonderful doctors, specialists and staff at Swedish Medical Center and Children's Hospital in Seattle worked to alleviate the pain Alicia was under, which allowed her to act like the vivacious girl she is. My office had the opportunity to meet Alicia and her mom, Cynthia, more than a year ago to discuss Alicia's ailment and a photo from that meeting is proudly displayed in our office; her infectious nature and sweet disposition made a lasting impact.

The Arthritis Prevention Control and Cure Act, H.R. 1210, of 2009 is legislation I'm proud to have co-sponsored. At this time, the legislation is in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and I encourage the entire House to act on it as quickly as possible because it is an important bill. The bill would, among many other things, focus attention on juvenile arthritis research by creating a juvenile arthritis database and provide financial incentives to encourage more health professionals to enter the field of pediatric rheumatology. Additionally, I will continue to work on behalf of young people like Alicia to urge Congress to make a long-term, sustained investment in medical research through the National Institutes of Health because it represents our greatest hope for finding cures and treatments for debilitating conditions like arthritis and freeing Alicia and her family from the constraints of arthritis.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I extend our sincerest congratulations to Alicia, for her courageous spirit and the inspiration provided to 300,000 other young people struggling with this disease today, and our best wishes in the 2009 Arthritis Walk.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL
ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join Representative BOBBY SCOTT and Chairman JOHN CONYERS in introducing the Civil Access to Justice Act of 2009. This important legislation will expand civil legal services to low-income families and individuals.

In 1974, Congress established the Legal Services Corporation ("LSC") to operate as a private, non-profit corporation to promote equal access to justice under the law and to provide grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income persons. LSC distributes more than 95 percent of its total funding to 137 independent nonprofit legal aid programs to represent low-income individuals and families in every congressional district. Programs receiving LSC grants help the most vulnerable, such as families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures, displaced persons attempting to obtain federal emergency assistance, and women seeking protection from abuse. In fact, many programs have been besieged recently with requests for foreclosure assistance because of the subprime mortgage crisis.

The current economic downturn will likely lead to more families and individuals needing legal assistance. According to a recently released study commissioned by LSC's Board of Directors, Documenting the Justice Gap in America, many recipient programs of LSC funds must turn away half of all individuals who qualify and seek their assistance because of the lack of resources. Unfortunately, state, local, and private funding and pro bono support have been unable to help close the access to justice gap. The underfunding may result in a potential catastrophe for millions of low-income families and individuals throughout the country who need, but are unable to obtain, legal assistance in matters relating to their housing, employment, and access to health care. Currently, LSC is funded at \$390,000,000, which is insufficient to provide legal representation to all of the impoverished in need of legal assistance. This legislation authorizes an increase in funding for LSC of \$750,000,000, which represents an inflation-adjusted funding level from fiscal year 1981. This funding will help close the justice gap and provide civil legal assistance to all potential eligible clients.

Additionally, the Civil Access to Justice Act eliminates certain restrictions that have significantly limited the ability of legal aid attorneys to represent all low-income families and individuals. First, the bill would remove many restrictions on the use of state, local, and private money by LSC-funded programs. Second, it would eliminate restrictions on the ability of LSC-funded attorneys to represent clients in class action cases. Also, the bill would provide

programs the opportunity to seek court-ordered attorneys' fees, which they are currently prohibited from seeking.

Finally, this legislation codifies recent recommendations from the Government Accountability Office to improve LSC governance and accountability. These recommendations should lead to better management and oversight of LSC-funded programs.

I urge my colleagues to join me, Mr. SCOTT, Chairman CONYERS, and others, and cosponsor this important and timely legislation. I am optimistic that Congress can send a bill to the President for his signature so that the doors of justice will always remain open to those in need.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT DANIEL CHOI FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER EQUALITY MOVEMENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize LT Daniel Choi for his service to the United States of America and outstanding contributions to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, LGBT, equality movement as an Army officer, Iraq War veteran, and now civil rights activist. In clear defiance of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the unjust law that prohibits LGBT service members from serving openly and honestly in the military, Lieutenant Choi courageously spoke three words on national television—"I am gay." In doing so, he knew that he was risking his military career, but was firm in the belief that he had chosen the harder right over the easier wrong. Lieutenant Choi was ultimately discharged, but has since devoted his life to activism in the hope that, one day soon, Don't Ask, Don't Tell will be repealed.

Lieutenant Choi's story is one of excellence and leadership. He was born in February 1981 in Orange County, California and attended Tustin High School, where he was student body president, participated in the American Legion Boys State program, and was involved in various extracurricular activities ranging from Christian Club and Model United Nations to varsity swimming and marching band. It comes as no surprise that Lieutenant Choi was admitted to the prestigious U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he continued to excel and learn the values that gave him purpose as an officer in the Army and activist for LGBT rights. It was at West Point that Lieutenant Choi first recited the Cadet Honor Code: "A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do."

In 2003, Lieutenant Choi became one of only eight graduates in his class to earn a degree in Arabic Language, in addition to Environmental Engineering. During his 10 years of honorable service to this nation, Lieutenant Choi served as an Infantry Officer. Specifically, he was a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Battalion and Brigade Staff Officer, Iraqi Arabic language instructor, and

civil-military and reconstruction engineer in the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. For 15 months from 2006 to 2007, Lieutenant Choi saw duty as an Infantry Platoon Leader and Arabic linguist in South Baghdad, Iraq, providing an invaluable service to his fellow soldiers and the United States' mission by communicating quickly and clearly with the Iraqi people. In 2008, Lieutenant Choi became an Infantry Platoon Leader in the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry in Manhattan, New York.

While an officer with the Army National Guard, Lieutenant Choi co-founded KNIGHTS OUT: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender West Point Graduates, an organization of West Point alumni, staff, and faculty who are united in supporting the rights of LGBT soldiers to openly serve their country. On March 19, 2009, Lieutenant Choi appeared on MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show to discuss the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. In a surprising announcement, Lieutenant Choi revealed that he was gay. Fully aware of the consequences, he refused to lie about who he is and accept a policy that compromises the integrity of the U.S. military and its service members. Despite testimony from his commanding officer, members of his unit, and fellow soldiers who served in Iraq, as well as 260,000 letters and signatures of support, a panel of New York National Guard officers recommended that Lieutenant Choi be discharged on June 30, 2009.

Guided by the same values he learned at West Point and in the Army, Lieutenant Choi now advocates for the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the reversal of Proposition 8 in California, an amendment to the state constitution that recognizes marriage as between only one man and one woman. He continues to raise public and political awareness of issues that affect LGBT service members and the LGBT community as a whole.

Madam Speaker, the West Point Cadet Prayer teaches cadets "... never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be won." Don't Ask, Don't Tell is a no-truth policy and must be repealed. I am honored and humbled by Lieutenant Choi's selfless example and, although he is no longer in uniform, he continues to fight for the freedom of all Americans to be the best they can be, gay or straight.

PROVIDING FOR A TRANSITION PERIOD FOR THE GUAM-CNMI VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I introduced legislation to amend the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (CNRA), Public Law 110-229, for the purpose of providing for a transition period for the implementation of the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. Section 702 of the CNRA extends the immigration laws of the United States to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). It also provides for a visa waiver program for travel to Guam and the CNMI consistent with the new arrangements for control of immigration in the CNMI and that

would be based on and succeed the highly successful Guam-only visa waiver program, which was authorized by the Omnibus Territories Act of 1986.

The Department of Homeland Security will commence control of six ports of entry in the CNMI on November 28, 2009, in accordance with the CNRA. The bill I have introduced today would make a technical correction to the CNRA, by delaying for one year the start of the authorized joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. Its effect would be to allow for federal control of immigration to commence in the CNMI on November 28, 2009, but also for the existing CNMI visitor entry program under CNMI law to continue but be controlled and administered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) under the Department of Homeland Security. The current approved countries under the Guam-only visa waiver program and the CNMI visitor entry program would be maintained, respectively for each territory, for an additional year. Such a continuation of the visitor entry rules for both of these territories would afford the Department of Homeland Security additional time to devise rules and allocate the resources necessary in both the CNMI and Guam for the successful operation and administration of the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program consistent with Congressional intent. The additional time will also provide for an orderly transition to occur in both territories.

Most importantly, this bill would allow the Department of Homeland Security to focus its resources initially on the standing-up and control of six ports of entry in the CNMI and also protect the economic interests of the CNMI with the continuation of its visitor entry program. The CNMI economy is heavily reliant on tourism and its visitor sector is accustomed to operating under the territory's visitor entry program.

The bill also authorizes a study to be conducted by the Secretary of the Interior, analyzing the economic situation and forecast for the CNMI. This report will be provided to the committees with jurisdiction, the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, within 30 days of enactment. This report will help the Committees exercise oversight of the implementation of the CNRA and the transition by the Department of Homeland Security to the new joint, Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as this bill moves forward in the legislative process.

IN HONOR OF DR. DANIEL SIMMONS AND THE MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Daniel Simmons and the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Albany, Ga. On Sunday, October 11, the Mount Zion Baptist Church will jointly celebrate Dr. Simmons' 18th year as the Senior Pastor and the church's 144th anniversary. I have known Pastor Simmons for many years

and feel honored to call him my pastor, a friend, a teacher, and an inspiration. Likewise, I have been a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church for 13 years and have found it to be a Christian fellowship of love in action through service to mankind.

Dr. Simmons is a great many things to a great many people. Since I joined Mount Zion in 1996, I have come to know him as a man of character, an humanitarian, a bridge builder, a shepherd, and a leader. Above all, "Pastor Simmons," as he is known, through his own humble and morally strong existence, helps us, as followers of the Word, to strive toward the Spiritual fulfillment graciously offered to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As the Word says in Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Pastor Simmons has truly lived by this principle. Since his arrival at Mount Zion in 1991, he has sought to implement the church's mission to be a "vibrant church that reaches the world for Christ through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and missions."

Under his leadership, the church has grown to 2,700 members and counting. Financial stewardship has increased substantially. In July of 2008, the church broke ground on a new 67,000 square foot facility to provide the space necessary to continue building upon Pastor Simmons' vision and the church's mission. With all this growth and expansion, it is abundantly clear that God is doing great work at Mount Zion Baptist Church through the ministry of Pastor Simmons.

With ordained leadership and divine grace, Pastor Simmons has built a church that delivers God's message and works daily to implement God's vision. Pastor Simmons personifies the love of God through his teaching and his way of life. I thank him for his years of service to his parishioners, the Albany community, Georgia's Second Congressional District, and the Nation. Moreover, I wish him many more fruitful years to come.

I also recognize and celebrate the body of Christ which is the Mount Zion Baptist Church on the occasion of its 144th anniversary. May it forever utilize the blessings of great leadership and bountiful resources with which it has been provided to the Glory of Almighty God.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
PAUL BURGESS FAY, JR.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and work of a distinguished American, a friend and an American hero, Paul Burgess "Red" Fay Jr., who passed away on September 23, 2009, at the age of 91. He leaves his beloved wife, Anita, to whom he was married for 62 years; his children Paul Fay III, Katherine Fay and Sally Fay Cottingham; and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Fay, a fourth-generation San Franciscan, was born in San Francisco in 1918 to a distinguished family. His father, Paul B. Fay Sr., was President of the Fay Improvement Company, a paving contracting firm founded in 1875, and gave young Paul the nickname "Red" as a child, which his friends called him

for the rest of his life. He graduated from Stanford University in 1941 with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and he enlisted in the Navy shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II.

It was during his service in the Navy that Mr. Fay met and became friends with President John F. Kennedy. In 1942, after attending Officer Training School, Mr. Fay was assigned to PT boat training in Melville, Rhode Island, where the future President was his instructor. They met during a touch football game. They were later assigned to the same base in the South Pacific and became friends after both of their boats were damaged. President Kennedy's PT-109 was attacked in an event that made him a war hero, and Mr. Fay's boat was struck by a torpedo, after which he was awarded a Bronze Star. While their ships were temporarily out of action, they roomed together in a small Quonset hut and became fast and lasting friends.

After the war, Mr. Fay returned to San Francisco and joined the family business. In 1947, he married the love of his life, Anita Marquez of Mill Valley. He remained close with John F. Kennedy and became a political supporter and a trusted adviser in his inner circle, working on his election campaigns for the House of Representatives, Senate, and the Presidency. When John Kennedy was elected President in 1960, he appointed Mr. Fay Under Secretary of the Navy, an office he held until January 1965.

After leaving Washington, Mr. Fay returned to the Bay Area and the family business, which he sold and later resurrected as a financial consulting and business ventures firm. He wrote a best-selling book, "The Pleasure of His Company," a memoir of his close friendship with the late President Kennedy. He became a founding partner of William Hutchinson & Co., an investment research and brokerage firm, and he was for many years a director of First American Financial and Vestaur Securities. He retired from business in 2005.

Among Mr. Fay's many social and charitable activities was his work with Youth Tennis Advantage, a Bay Area organization that helps teach tennis to at-risk youth. He also contributed his time to such charitable causes as the Robert Odell Foundation, the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation, and the American Ireland Fund, whose San Francisco Chapter named him "Man of the Year" in 1995. He was a trustee of the Naval War College Foundation and of Mount St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth of San Francisco, and he was a member of the Pacific Union Club, Bohemian Club, Burlingame Country Club, Chevy Chase Club, California Tennis Club and the Vintage in Indian Wells, California.

Mr. Fay was an extraordinary host, an accomplished master of ceremonies and indefatigable organizer of everything from charities to family touch-football games. An accomplished athlete, he played baseball at Stanford and enjoyed tennis and golf well into his eighties. He was a central figure in Bay Area society whose warmth and charm never failed to draw others to him, and he had hundreds of friends from all walks of life. He was a man of great integrity and everyone who knew him came away a better person.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring a national treasure and an extraordinary American,

Paul Burgess "Red" Fay, and in extending my deepest sympathy to his entire family during this difficult time. He represented the best of America and his decades of contributions to his family and friends, his community and his country stand as lasting legacies of a life lived exceedingly well. How privileged I am to have known him, to represent him and to have had him as my friend. He loved his community and his country and he served both with distinction, making our Nation a better place for generations to come.

HONORING THE DANVILLE-ALAMO
BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ON ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women on its 40th Anniversary. The chapter has a proud history serving the community by supporting political, social, professional, and educational opportunities for women.

Through the chapter's work, Danville and Alamo benefit from stimulating speakers and programs, candidates' nights, and community service opportunities. The AAUW Danville-Alamo Branch has been active in local schools, enhancing educational opportunities in the arts, music, languages, science, and math. The branch also started a local Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics conference to expose middle school girls to careers in math and science. The Danville-Alamo Branch also helps girls achieve the dream of a college education through its scholarship programs.

Today, the Danville-Alamo Branch has more than 200 members. These members continue to serve the community and advance a wide range of issues that affect women and girls. I wish you a heartfelt congratulations on 40 years of changing lives and making a difference for women.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET
REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. R. 1016—To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide new discretionary budget authority for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill would ensure sufficient, timely, and predictable veterans funding so that the Department of Veterans Affairs would have the Federal funding to better serve veterans' medical needs and improve health care services. This is a very timely and important measure as many of our troops today are returning

home in need of accessible and adequate health care services. Therefore, I strongly commend my colleague BOB FILNER for bringing this measure before the floor.

This bill provides for a new two-fiscal-year discretionary budget authority for three critical accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs: medical services, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities. Accordingly, this measure will give the Department of Veterans Affairs sufficient time to effectively plan how it will deliver the best care to a growing number of veterans with increasingly complex medical conditions. And to ensure that the funds are being used appropriately, H.R. 1016 requires the United States Comptroller General to conduct a study to determine the adequacy and accuracy of the department's budget model projections.

My military constituents often turn to me for support in confronting the many challenges they face when working with the Department of Veterans Affairs. We have come to understand, that many of the challenges in efficient health care services are attributable to the Department of Veterans Affairs' inadequate funding. Over the last two decades, the appropriated funds for medical care have not been provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs in a timely manner. This has resulted in the department's problems in planning and managing care for enrolled veterans. Accordingly, this bill addresses this budgetary problem and allows for advance appropriations to ensure the department has the Federal backing to effectively address the medical needs of our Nation's veterans.

As a vocal advocate for veterans' rights, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H.R. 1016. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to provide the necessary resources towards improving our Department of Veterans Affairs' health care programs and administrative services.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, the Federal budget deficit tripled to a record \$1.4 trillion for the 2009 fiscal year that ended last week, congressional analysts announced late yesterday.

According to the Congressional Budget Office this year's budget deficit is a level not witnessed since World War Two.

The deficit amounted to almost 10 percent of the nation's economy, triple the size of the shortfall for 2008.

While tax revenue fell by \$420 billion, or 17 percent, to the lowest level in more than 50 years, Federal spending rose by 18 percent.

Despite this sobering economic report, the White House and its allies in Congress continue to press ahead with health care overhaul legislation that could cost at least \$900 billion over the next decade.

How many alarm bells must be set off before Washington gets serious about tackling our ever-growing budget deficits?

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL WAYNE E. MEYER

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to laud the achievements, acumen, patriotism and long service to our country by RA Wayne E. Meyer, affectionately known as the "Father of AEGIS." His service to our Navy and our Nation has been continuous since his enlistment as a midshipman recruit in 1943. He is best known as the founding project manager of the AEGIS Shipbuilding Project, which began building AEGIS cruisers in 1978. AEGIS destroyers are still being constructed today, and remain the world's most formidable multi-mission warships. The cruisers and destroyers in our fleet today are the direct result of Rear Admiral Meyer's leadership and dedication to his country.

Admiral Meyer's life began far from the sea, in Brunswick, Missouri, in 1926. His family plowed the black earth in the "gumbo" region near the Missouri River, and, like so many other American families of that era, survived the Depression only through their determination and their indomitable spirit.

When the Nation went to war in 1941, Wayne Meyer was only 15. He continued his schooling, but only days after his 17th birthday, with his parent's written permission, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve to serve his country. After graduating high school as his class president and valedictorian, the Navy called him to active duty as an apprentice seaman, and sent him to the University of Kansas' engineering school—part of President Roosevelt's "V-12" program. After an accelerated and exhausting 32 months, Wayne Meyer earned a B.S. in electrical engineering. Later that month, in February 1946, he was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve, and sent to M.I.T. for further schooling in the nascent fields of radar and sonar. His schooling later included atomic weapons training, a further graduate degree in electrical engineering, a master's in aeronautics and astronautics from M.I.T., the Navy General Line School and certification as a Navy Ordnance Engineer.

His early years in the Navy were marked by extensive sea duty. He was ordered to Destroyer Radar Picket USS *Goodrich* (DDR 831), where he served as part of the occupation forces in the Mediterranean, service in the Greek civil war, and with part of the force supporting the creation of Israel in 1948. He was accepted for transfer to the regular Navy that year as well.

Meyer was next posted in Chinese waters, where his ship, the light gun cruiser *Springfield* (CL 66), was in the mouth of the Huangpu River when Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalist forces fell to Mao's Red Army in March 1949. He returned home to serve on a number of ships on Fleet Staffs—twice deploying in the destroyer tender USS *Sierra* (AD 16). He patrolled the Distant Early Warning line (extended) off Newfoundland as Executive Officer in the Radar Picket *Strickland* (DER 333). After a return to shore for more schooling, he was ordered to the guided missile cruiser *Galveston* (CLG 3) as Fire Control Officer and subsequently Gunnery Officer for her conversion as the first Talos cruiser, where he

fired more Talos missiles than any other person. By the time he finished his sea duty, he'd served on seven ships and sailed the Pacific, Atlantic, and Mediterranean.

The next phase of Admiral Meyer's career was leading critical programs and facilities in the Navy's material establishment. In 1963 Secretary of the Navy Fred Korth chose then Commander Meyer to serve in the special Navy Task Force for the Surface Guided Missile Systems, under command of RADM Eli T. Reich, USN. His work at the Terrier missile system desk led to his appointment to lead the engineering effort to transition the entire Terrier fleet (30 ships) from analog to high speed digital systems. After turning down a destroyer command to continue this prelude to advanced weapons system design, he was appointed an Ordnance Engineering Duty Officer the same year he was selected for captain, 1966. He then served as the Chief Engineer at the Naval Ship Missile Systems Engineering Station, Port Hueneme, California. From this post he led the in-service engineering of the Navy's surface missile systems.

Ordered back to Washington in 1969, he became the AEGIS Weapons System Manager in the Bureau of Ordnance, the most important phase of his career. It was here that Meyer's lifetime operational and engineering experience was put to the test. It would also require him to exercise what many know to be his unparalleled genius—organization and communication.

Meyer's first major challenge was to make AEGIS work. That is—develop and test a new area air defense system to protect the fleet from aircraft and cruise missile attack. By virtue of his "double-hat" as the Director of Surface Missile Systems in NAVSEA, he was also charged with keeping the existing fleet of Terrier and Tartar ships capable against ever more sophisticated Soviet threats. Those who worked for Meyer in those early days knew him as untiring, relentless, and driven towards success. They also knew him to be the consummate engineer—demanding back-ups for risky technologies and redundancy to ensure his system would work under even the most demanding conditions. After a number of land-based tests, the AEGIS Weapon System prototype was installed in the USS *Norton Sound* in 1974 for at-sea testing. Two more years of development and testing, following Meyer's mantra, "build-a-little, test-a-little, learn a lot" led to "Super Sunday" in 1977, when AEGIS detected, tracked and engaged two targets simultaneously.

With such a powerful new weapon system in development, the Navy understood that it could be used for more than just air engagements, and in 1976 charged Meyer with developing the AEGIS Combat System. The combat system, which included the AEGIS Weapon System, would allow simultaneous multi-mission engagements against surface, air, and submarine targets, as well as strike capability. With his naval engineer's eye toward cautioned, prudent design, Meyer again demanded a stepwise approach to development, and thorough land-based testing before sending the system to sea.

With these combat and weapon systems under controlled development, Meyer's next major challenge was to "get AEGIS to Sea." Since the project began in 1969, the ship to carry AEGIS had been a hotly debated issue in the Navy, the Department of Defense, and

Congress. Meyer knew that he couldn't have his engineers constantly focus as the targeted ships changed each year, and thus instituted "Superset." The "Superset" combat system would be the largest aggregation of capability under consideration for a single ship. If a less capable version were eventually authorized by Congress, "down-designing" would be easier than inserting new combat system features. When our democracy finished its great debate on the first ship to carry AEGIS, a highly modified version of the USS *Spruance* hull was the result. Christened by Nancy Reagan in 1981, and commissioned in 1983, the cruiser USS *Ticonderoga* was built on time, and slightly under budget. It was on the battle line in Lebanon only 9 months after its commission.

Today, when our country seems to have difficulties building ships, we should remember that we have had great patriots like Admiral Meyer, who could lead the most complex of endeavors—and bring them in on cost and on schedule.

But one ship does not a fleet make. Promoted to rear admiral in 1975, Meyer's third major challenge was to "rebuild the Surface Navy"—transitioning from a Terrier and Tartar cruiser and destroyer fleet to an AEGIS cruiser and destroyer fleet. Meyer knew it would be a long process, and would require schoolhouses, shore-based logistics, facilities for computer program maintenance, training, in-service engineering, and a host of other facilities and people to keep the new fleet ready. With his partner in the Chief of Naval Operations' Office, Vice Admiral James H. Doyle, Jr., he set out to build this supporting infrastructure, which keeps the fleet ready today. With 27 cruisers and 62 destroyers built or under construction, and more in planning, Admiral Meyer's vision of rebuilding the surface Navy is now complete.

After retiring in 1985, Admiral Meyer's restless zeal has kept him thoroughly involved in our Nation's defense. He has chaired numerous Navy Advisory Boards, the Ballistic Missile Defense Advisory Committee, and remains a valuable counselor to those in our Navy as the "Father of AEGIS."

He has watched with special pride as his AEGIS fleet has been transformed into a critical arm of our Nation's ballistic missile defense system. With his guidance and mentorship, the process has again been, "build-a-little, test-a-little, learn a lot," with a record of success unparalleled among the missile defense programs.

His accomplishments and contributions to the defense of our Nation have been so numerous and far-reaching that the Secretary of the Navy named an AEGIS destroyer, DDG 108, the USS *Wayne E. Meyer*. She is to commission this October, an event that will no doubt be attended by thousands who have taken part in the "AEGIS movement." In advance of that monumental event, I would like to thank Admiral Meyer for his more than 65 years of service to our Nation. I stand in awe of his achievements, his systems, his fleet, and his commitment to the excellence of our Navy.

H. CON. RES. 51, RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Con. Res. 51, Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty.

This resolution recognizes that the Antarctic Treaty has ensured Antarctica's peaceful use and the continuance of international harmony for the past half century. Also, it encourages international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the Antarctic Treaty Summit.

The Antarctic Treaty was signed by the United States and eleven other nations in Washington, D.C. on December 1, 1959. Over the past five decades, the Antarctic Treaty has succeeded as a firm foundation for ongoing international cooperation. It has grown to include 47 nations, representing nearly two-thirds of the world's population.

The Antarctic Treaty was established to continue and develop international "cooperation on the basis of freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica as applied during the International Geophysical Year."

November 30th through December 3, 2009, on the 50th anniversary of its signing, the Antarctic Treaty Summit will convene in Washington, D.C. at the Smithsonian Institution. The summit will be an international and interdisciplinary meeting that will offer a unique venue for scientists, legislators, administrators, lawyers, historians, educators, executives and others to explore the scientific and policy achievements of the Antarctic Treaty System and its global precedents in international governance.

This resolution also encourages international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the Antarctic Treaty Summit to identify lessons from 50 years of international cooperation under the Antarctic Treaty that have legacy value for humankind.

I would especially like to recognize my constituent, Dr. Paul A. Berkman. Professor Berkman was awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Scholarship at the University of Cambridge to plan the Antarctic Treaty Summit: Science-Policy Inter-actions in International Governance. Dr. Berkman now serves as Chair of the international board for this interdisciplinary project. I am thankful for his dedication, passion, and enthusiasm for the Antarctic Treaty and the Antarctic Treaty Summit.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the important contributions, and peaceful international cooperation the Antarctic Treaty has encouraged for the past half century by passing H. Con. Res. 51. A truly bipartisan measure will both capture and accurately honor the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 707, expressing support for the week of September 13, 2009, as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. Syracuse, NY, in my district, is considered the "home" of the adult literacy movement. It was in Syracuse that Dr. Frank Laubach established Laubach Literacy International to combat this ever growing problem. In my district, ProLiteracy continues the fight to encourage adult literacy in order to improve the lives of adults, their families and communities. ProLiteracy, the world's largest organization of adult literacy and basic education programs, provides advocacy, professional development, training, technical assistance, and materials to the programs that help adults learn to read, write, perform basic math, use technology, and communicate in English.

Fourteen percent of adults nationwide cannot read at an 8th grade level, that number rises to twenty two percent of adults in the state of New York. The ability to read is a key component for overcoming poverty, maintaining good health, finding a job that pays a living wage and preventing crime. Almost 63 percent of all inmates in state and federal prisons are almost totally illiterate.

For example, Carl Sodeberg from Minneapolis, Minnesota had a learning disability that made it difficult for him to read. When Carl was in high school, he was called to the front of the classroom to read something from the blackboard. When students and the teacher mocked him, Carl lashed out at the teacher verbally and was suspended from school. He never went back. Over the next 20 years Carl found himself in and out of work. He developed a drug problem and ended up in jail. When he finally realized he needed to learn to read, Carl was in his mid-40's. Carl worked with an adult literacy program in his community—he learned to read, earned his high school diploma, and then went on to get a paraprofessional's license that enables him to work as a teacher's aide. He's now employed by the high school from which he was suspended, working with students who have fallen behind in their studies due to reading problems.

It is stories such as Carl Sodeberg's that remind us the importance of encouraging adult literacy and the mission of organizations like ProLiteracy. I encourage other Members to join me in supporting H. Res. 707 to designate the week of September 13 Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF W.L. SMITH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. W.L. Smith "Junior," a World War II veteran and a community

leader who passed away on October 5, 2009. Mr. Smith spent his life serving his country, his community, and his family, and I am proud to honor his dedication and service.

Junior Smith was born on November 7, 1921 in Weedowee, Alabama and was a life-long resident of Jay, Florida. He served honorably in World War II before opening Smith Tractor Company in Jay. In addition, Junior

was an active member of the community. He was a member of the Jay United Methodist Church, as well as the Masonic Lodge. Junior will be sorely missed by his wife of 59 years, Louise, his children, Connie, Donna, Ricky, and Scotty, his 10 grandchildren, his great-grandchild, and his entire extended family.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor

W.L. Smith "Junior" as a World War II hero and Northwest Florida leader. Junior will be remembered as a loving husband and father and as an important part of our community. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his family as we remember and honor the life of W.L. Smith.